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Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Africare

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Africare helps Africa. It is a leading organization among private, charitable organizations in the United States of America assisting Africa. It is the oldest and largest African-American-led organization in the field.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period Africare participated in a number of meetings of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and side events that contributed to the work of the United Nations, including (a) the 2005 National Council Meeting of the United Nations Association USA, held in New York; (b) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) round table on Liberia, held in Washington, D.C. in 2005; (c) the opening event of the Economic and Social Council for the Global Initiative, held in New York in 2005, at which the President of Africare delivered a speech; (d) the NGO consultations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), held in Geneva in 2005; (e) the opening session of the annual session of ECOSOC in 2006; (f) the United Nations special meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in 2006 in New York; (g) the consultations of the Asian Development Bank in Tunis in 2007; (h) the meeting of the Women's Foreign Policy Group in 2007; and (i) the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2006, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) donated $116,000 to Africare to support its efforts to implement, input and distribute agricultural packs in the Shamva district of Zimbabwe, and in 2008, it donated $48,000 to the organization to assist with the distribution of critical farm inputs (seeds, fertilizers and agro-chemicals) to 11,000 farmers in the Shamva and Buhera districts of Zimbabwe.

In 2005 the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported Africare with $123,847 to implement a small holder enterprise marketing programme in Zambia. In 2005, Africare received $151,000 from IFAD for the Promotion of Food Security Opportunities Opposing Drought — Phase 2 in Zimbabwe.

In April 2005 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded the Africare Assisted Settlement Reintegration Project in Liberia with a donation of

$794,515 and, with the Global Fund, provided $259,988 to the organization to fight malaria in Benin.

In January 2006, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided $589,934 for the management of Gaga camp in Chad and $312,086 to avert a food security disaster for 29,694 refugees from the Central African Republic in Chad.

In 2006 the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided Africare with $187,723 for the UNICEF bed net distribution programme in Malawi and $102,300 for the distribution of anti-thyroid medication in Malawi.

In 2006, the World Bank and the Japan Social Development Fund provided Africare with $1,447,449 for the implementation of the Women's Initiative for Sex Education and Economic Empowerment in Nigeria: 2,500 women received vocational training through the programme, and an additional $352,500 was provided to it.

C. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Target 1: Halve the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day: in Burundi, Africare implemented the Livelihood Security Initiative with funding from USAID. The project led to improvement in agronomic practices, farm yield and income of 5,500 households.

Target 2: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger: in Burkina Faso, 111,000 benefited from the Zondoma Food Security Initiative.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

Target 2A: Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling: in Angola, 7,000 elementary school pupils in Cunene Province benefited from a comprehensive education intervention aimed at creating suitable teaching and learning conditions.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: in Zambia, Africare collaborated with the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service to address gender-based violence and promote exercise of women's rights.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Target 1: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Through its projects, 52,545 people received abstinence and behavioural change messages; 454 clients were referred to voluntary counselling and testing; and 30,261 insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed to 7,856 households.

Target 3: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. In Nigeria, with funding from Shell, 65,000 women and children have been treated and over 10,000 women and children have been protected with insecticide-treated nets.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: The Ugalla Community Landscape Project expanded land area under conservation to 819,235.7 hectares.

2. American Society of International Law

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The American Society of International Law was established as an international organization in January 1906 and was chartered as a non-profit corporation by an act of the United States Congress in 1950. The purpose of the Society, as stated in its constitution, is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The current mission statement reads: The American Society of International Law is a membership society dedicated to promoting the use and study of international law.

The Society reports that it has not changed its permanent headquarters nor amended its constitution during the reporting period. The membership continues to be international in scope, with approximately 40 per cent being resident outside the United States. Funding continues to be derived from dues and fees paid by the membership and from sales of the Society's periodicals and other publications to members and the international law community at large. Grants funds for special projects or conferences are sought and received on an irregular basis. The Society added no new organizational affiliations during the reporting period.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

To promote the work of the United Nations, notices of all relevant United Nations meetings were circulated to the membership at large and, in particular, to members of the Society's 23 interest groups. The Society does not take positions on matters of public policy, but it encourages its members to do so and to attend the United Nations conferences in their areas of expertise. The Society has delegated two representatives to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in New York as well as to the NGO offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna so that that they can attend meetings and keep the membership abreast of events. The Society makes every attempt to keep in touch with the United Nations and to disseminate information about activities of importance to its members.

The Society was represented at the following United Nations meetings: (a) the sessions of the Human Rights Council in June 2006, December 2007 and June 2008 in Geneva — a representative from the New England Law School in Boston attended; (b) the sessions of the Human Rights Committee in March 2006, March 2007 and March 2008 in New York — a representative from the New England Law School in Boston attended the sessions; (c) the meeting of the United Nations Law of the Sea in June 2008, in New York — a representative from the University of Cordoba in Spain attended.

Other activities

At the annual meeting of the Society each spring there are panel discussions by experts, including a number of members of the United Nations staff, on issues

related to the United Nations system in the areas of the environment, health, gender and other subjects of global concern. The meetings typically generate an attendance of about 1,100.

In conjunction with the Academic Council on the United Nations system, the Society holds a workshop for academics interested in working and exchanging perspectives with members of the United Nations Secretariat.

The Society's publication, *International Legal Materials*, has a number of United Nations staff members serving as corresponding editors, ensuring that documents relating to or of interest to the United Nations are published in this bimonthly publication.

The ASIL regularly publishes background information on activities at the United Nations on its electronic website, *ASIL Insights*, which has a worldwide readership of 5,000.

The Society regularly interacts with the United Nations Legal Counsel and members of the Office of Legal Affairs to keep abreast of legal developments and the work of the International Law Commission. In recent years, the Society has supported efforts of the Office of the Legal Affairs to develop its audio-visual library on international law, including by contributing audio-visual content from the Society, arranging interviews with its leading members and publicizing the project.

3. December Twelfth Movement International Secretariat

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The December Twelfth Movement International Secretariat is an organization whose goal is to ensure the protection of the human rights of people of African descent throughout the African diaspora and on the African continent. Its work with the United Nations is dedicated to work on issues that affect people of African descent and to promote the use of United Nations organs and special procedures to improve the quality of life for African people. In various parts of the world, the Society organizes activities in local communities to counter racism and publicizes the United Nations procedures as a way to secure and protect human rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the seventh session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, where it made oral interventions on agenda items on: racism and racial discrimination and the right of peoples to self-determination. The organization addressed issues of summary and arbitrary execution and conditions of incarceration and organized a side event to show the documentary film "The Durban 400", on the important role played by NGOs in the development of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001.

The organization has been in regular contact with the Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, providing him with information and updates and lobbying for him to conduct a follow-up visit to the United States. The Special Rapporteur conducted a 19-day follow-up investigation in the United States from 18 May 2008 to 6 June 2008, during which the organization and the Association for the Prevention of Torture co-sponsored a public hearing on racism and racial discrimination with the Special Rapporteur in New York at the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture.

The organization took part in the sixth and seventh sessions of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in 2008, during which it lobbied for an expanded budget so that the Group could conduct some of its meetings in the Americas and other parts of the African diaspora and for the inclusion of specific items on the agenda of the Durban Review Conference in 2009.

Representatives of the organization attended sessions of the General Assembly, and in 2006 contributed to a shadow report submitted to the Human Rights Committee by United States civil society organizations and advocates for the Council's review of the second and third periodic reports of the United States regarding compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Showings of "The Durban 400" were organized in cities around the United States to highlight the difference that participation in the United Nations can mean for communities of colour.

Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization has worked on the following Millennium Development Goals: **Goal 1**: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 4**: Reducing child mortality; **Goal 6**: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and **Goal 8**: Develop a global partnership for development. In 2005, following the devastation caused to the United States Gulf Coast area by Hurricane Katrina, which was compounded by the shortcomings in the Government response, the organization raised funds, collected supplies and sent six 18-wheeler truckloads of aid to the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. The organization was instrumental in 2005 and 2006 in exposing, publicizing and organizing opposition to illegal and sometimes fatal HIV/AIDS experiments being conducted on Black and Latino children under the custody of the New York City Agency for Child Services. The organization collected and sent medical supplies for humanitarian distribution in Zimbabwe in 2006 and 2007.

4. Hadassah: Women's Zionist Organization of America

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, initiates and supports pace-setting health care, education and youth institutions in Israel. As the largest medical and research centre in the Middle East, the Hadassah Medical Organization, is the centrepiece of Hadassah's work. Despite ongoing violence in the region it serves, the Hadassah Medical Organization continues to promote humanitarian values, treating every person who comes through its doors, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity, and tirelessly working to improve Arab-Israeli cooperation. Hadassah is deeply committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals across the globe. The Nobel Peace Prize Committee nominated Hadassah for its 2005 prize.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

Haddasah representatives have attended the following meetings and conferences held at United Nations Headquarters in New York:

2005: The special session of the General Assembly marking the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps; the Commission on the Status of Women and the NGO consultations; the 10-year review of the Beijing Conference on Women; the Economic and Social Council high-level segment preparatory meeting; the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference; the Youth Assembly at the United Nations "Tomorrow's Leaders Today", at which a member of the Hadassah National Board made a presentation on "The Different Faces of Youth Aliyah", an Israeli national youth-service project; (c) the United States Mission to the United Nations, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy Forum, "The Role of NGOs in Promoting Peace in the Middle East", in which health-care professionals from the Hadassah Hospital in Jordan and the United States participated.

2006: Holocaust remembrance events; the Economic and Social Council NGO Forum; the high-level meeting on AIDS, "Uniting the World against AIDS"; the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference; the United Nations briefing on "The Status of Human Trafficking Around the World"; and the forum on General Assembly and NGO relations; the Economic and Social Council NGO Forum — representatives attended and addressed the forum on the contributions Hadassah has made to empower women through micro-lending and training; co-sponsored a networking session at the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in "*Effective Partnerships and Network*", sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women.

2007: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust; NGOs/Commission on the Status of Women event "*Make Girls Visible*"; the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, "*Pathways to Peace: Religious Perspectives on Solving Global Problems*"; Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, at which Hadassah sponsored a workshop on "*Water Security and Climate Change*" where representatives from Jordan, Israel and the United States from the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies discussed water security and supply issues currently affecting the Middle East and, potentially, the entire world.

2008: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust; update on the work of the General Assembly; Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women "Forum on the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking"; Committee on the Status of Women consultation day with 52 NGOs; Commission on Sustainable Development side event, "The impact of climate on health"; Department of Public Information/NGO Conference (served on the planning and events committees and presented a workshop on the "Community model for women's health promotion — community outreach: the right to be healthy"; the media seminar organized by the United Nations in cooperation and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on "Peace in the Middle East", Vienna; co-sponsored workshops at the Commission on the Status of Women Conference on "Corporate feminism: enhancing corporate influence through women's empowerment" and on "What you should know about cervical cancer and human papillomavirus", an educational meeting focusing on prevention and early detection.

Hadassah has also cooperated with the United Nations in the following ways: (a) tours of the United Nations by Hadassah members in 2006, 2007 and 2008; (b) consistent attendance at the Department of Public Information/NGO briefings and at monthly meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women; (c) Hadassah has been a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee for the Family; the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Sustainable Development; the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights; the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (subcommittee on HIV/AIDS); the United Nations Association of the United States of America; the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women and subcommittees on older women; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; (d) ongoing outreach presenting news of United Nations resolutions, agencies, conventions, meetings and Millennium Development Goals to Hadassah constituency in the United States and to 34 countries under the aegis of Hadassah International via a vast e-mail network and publications; (e) Hadassah has a strong tradition of serving the Palestinian and Arab communities and helping Palestinians establish their own health system. Hadassah has developed many programmes to provide training for Arab and Palestinian medical personnel in the West Bank, as well as collaborated with Palestinian physicians in the areas of community health, paediatric oncology and cardiology and emergency medicine; (f) Hadassah lends its expertise in ophthalmology to populations across the globe; (g) Hadassah is a leader in disaster management and medical relief missions, frequently coming to the aid and rescue of those in need; (h) the Hadassah Medical Organization has trained health

professionals from countries throughout the world. Also, numerous delegations from around the world visit Hadassah facilities to learn about their innovative projects, medical and educational programmes, cutting-edge research and emergency trauma procedures.

Hadassah is deeply committed to furthering the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. **Actions:** (a) The Hadassah Foundation helps train Bedouin women to become teachers in their own communities; (b) Youth Aliyah villages provide education to new immigrants and children from dysfunctional homes; (c) Hadassah runs a national tutoring programme in the United States called "Read*Write*Now". Hadassah produces and distributes free tutoring manuals to schools and community organizations. Hadassah members, in coalition with community groups, tutor in local elementary schools and libraries across the country.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. **Actions:** (a) The Hadassah Foundation focuses on economic empowerment for women and girls and promotes fundamental change by addressing the underlying obstacles that impede their social development. The Foundation supports programmes that provide low-income women with resources and training to enable them to become financially sufficient; (b) Hadassah mobilizes its membership and promotes gender equality by presenting lectures and workshops on economic security and gender equality for women.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. **Actions:** Two Hadassah paediatric cardiac surgeons have been working together to repair the heart conditions of Palestinian children through the "Heart for Peace" programme at Hadassah, sponsored by the Peres Center for Peace.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health. **Actions:** (a) Hadassah's Patricia and Russell Fleishman Women's Health Center develops community outreach programmes on disease prevention, nutrition and preventive health-care education. It has also set up a women's health check at Hadassah Hospital, which includes a mammogram, electrocardiography, bone density test and blood work. In addition, it offers programmes for elderly women to provide them with activities and social contacts to improve their physical and mental health and their quality of life; (b) Hadassah helps combat maternal and foetal death in Palestinian communities by training midwives and nurses and by conducting workshops in Abu Ghosh and East Jerusalem.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. **Actions:** (a) Hadassah physicians have collaborated with colleagues in Ethiopia for the past 15 years, including initiating the Israeli consortium on AIDS medicine, a programme to "train the trainers", and the treatment of children with HIV/AIDS in an orphanage in Addis Ababa where antiretroviral therapy was administered; (b) a delegation of three surgeons and two public health officials from Senegal arrived recently at Hadassah Ein Kerem to learn about "Operation Abraham", an adult circumcision programme to help reduce the transmission of AIDS; (c) at the request of the Government of Kazakhstan, Hadassah sent a member of its AIDS Unit to help set up an HIV/AIDS centre based on the Ethiopian model, to include site visits, training of professionals and improved laboratory services; (d) students at the Braun Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine developed a plan to

treat cholera, which includes increasing safe drinking water sources, promoting community awareness about cholera prevention, improving surveillance and reporting of cholera cases, and conducting post-epidemic investigation and education.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. **Actions:** (a) the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura is a Middle Eastern regional teaching and research centre for university undergraduate and graduate studies in Israel; (b) Hadassah College Jerusalem's environmental health sciences programme incorporates a sound science base with an ethical mission to focus on the connection between environment and health. The curriculum is designed to equip graduates with the tools necessary for identification, assessment, prevention and control of environmental factors potentially harmful to human health, quality of life, and the stability and sustainability of ecosystems; (c) Hadassah College Jerusalem and Hadassah Israel sponsored a conference on "Environment, pollution and your health", which included information on climate control and global warming.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. **Actions:** (a) Hadassah helps establish medical infrastructure, care, education and research in developing countries. A paediatric surgeon from Hadassah Hospital attended the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis to discuss developing computer programs for hospitalized children.

5. International Black Sea Club

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The objectives of the International Black Sea Club are to: (a) unite efforts of the cities (or municipalities) of the Black Sea countries in common tasks related to the Black Sea coast; (b) participate in programmes and projects for preserving the ecological equilibrium of the Black Sea and its adjacent (coastal) territory; (c) organize the exchange of economic (commercial) information; (d) assist the development of tourism; participate in national and international projects on the exploration, research and preservation of the Black Sea; (e) organize contacts between the business subjects and the state administrative bodies of the corresponding countries.

The Club accomplished its purposes through the following activities: (a) participated in the development, coordination, organization and implementation of common investment projects in the fields of economy, ecology, tourism and culture; (b) created conditions for free enterprise and expansion of the business exchange; (c) problem-solving with regard to rational use of the resources of Black Sea and its protection from pollution; (d) strengthened the system of organizational, economic, scientific, technical, research, business and cultural relations between the municipalities and regions of the Black Sea basin; (e) sustained business relations among regional, national and international economic and financial institutions and encouraged foreign and local investments for the realization of projects in the region of Black Sea; (f) coordinated activities of regional clubs with similar objectives in the priority fields — economy, science, ecology, tourism and culture; (g) assisted the establishment of business contacts with local and foreign institutions, organizations and companies in the areas included in the tasks of the Club; (h) approved, developed and implemented commercial, production and other proposals for cooperation in different fields and proposals for different projects; (i) assisted enterprises and organizations in addressing problems of technical, economical, ecological and social-cultural cooperation when conducting negotiations and concluding contracts; (j) developed and assisted in the realization of joint projects for the utilization of natural resources, environmental protection and restoration, scientific research, and spiritual, cultural and religious communication in the region; (k) organized activities for publications and periodic information bulletins, as well as web pages for the member cities.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has been constrained in carrying out its activities by lack of funding and budget shortage, which has made attendance at international meetings in New York, Geneva, and Vienna very difficult.

6. International Union of Building Centres

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The objective of the International Union of Building Centres is to strengthen the social, cultural and professional ties between building centres throughout the world and to encourage the exchange of information and documentation within the building and construction industry. The Union, which has 20 members representing building centres in 14 countries, holds annual meetings and has cooperated in creating a common platform on Internet (see www.uicb.org). Some regional working groups have had common projects, including the group in Scandinavia which maintains the Nordic Building Bookstore on the Internet. Cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies has been carried out through correspondence. Representatives of the Union have not participated in any United Nations meetings.

Activities of the International Union of Building Centres

Meetings and seminars: (a) Prague, 2006, seminars on "Enlargement of membership", "Importance of education of building centres" and "Energy intensity of buildings"; (b) Stuttgart, Germany, 2007, seminars on "E-business and building information" and "Information and knowledge management: helping the practitioner in planning and building".

Meeting of the Union in Istanbul, November 2008: fiftieth anniversary of the Union, seminars on "Video games and what the building sector can learn" and "The future of building — megatrends and weak signals".

II. Cooperation with other organizations

The Union maintains contact with the following organizations: (a) International Network for Construction Market Information; (b) International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation: in September 2009, the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation and the Union reached an agreement on cooperation; (c) International Construction Information Society; (d) United Nations.

7. National Aboriginal Forestry Association

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The National Aboriginal Forestry Association is a non-governmental indigenous peoples' organization whose mission is to advance the concepts of aboriginal control and sustainable forest management to serve the needs of aboriginal communities.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

The overall goal of the Association is to promote and support increased aboriginal involvement in forest management and related commercial opportunities. In pursuing this goal, the association is committed to strengthening the capacity of aboriginal communities and to building a forest policy framework that will accommodate and give substance to constitutionally recognized aboriginal and treaty rights. To address the range of underlying issues that must be dealt with to facilitate greater aboriginal participation in the forest sector, the Association has established six objectives: (a) assist aboriginal communities achieve a standard of land care which is balanced, sustainable and reflective of the traditional knowledge and forest values of aboriginal peoples; (b) facilitate capacity-building in forest management through the development of human resource strategies and models for increased participation in natural resource decision-making; (c) address the need for aboriginal forest land rehabilitation and increased aboriginal control over forest resources through the development of appropriate policy and programming; (d) ensure that aboriginal communities are made aware of ways and means by which they can extract the highest value possible from the forest resources they possess on reserve and from tenures they may hold in traditional territories; (e) support aboriginal peoples' aspirations regarding self-government and the exercise of aboriginal and treaty rights as they pertain to natural resource management; (f) provide a network for information sharing and to act in an advocacy role that seeks out opportunity to promote forestry amongst and on behalf of aboriginal peoples in Canada with governments and industry at all levels.

The Association has cooperated with various levels of government, forest industry associations, research and educational institutions and other aboriginal organizations to achieve its objectives, with a focus on building appropriate tools for contemporary forest management by aboriginal people consistent with the goals of self-determination and self-reliance as expressed by the Assembly of First Nations.

B. Organizational changes/developments

The Association has expanded its area of activity. As globalization, climate change, forest certification and numerous other factors cause shifts in forest policy, indigenous peoples' organizations, now more than ever, need access to international forest policy development processes. Collective indigenous perspectives on issues of cultural diversity and social justice are integral to discussions on forest

conservation and sustainable development. The Association has become increasingly involved in inter-indigenous policy development with a focus on natural resource management and forest sector business development in partnership with the indigenous organizations of other countries.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the United Nations

(a) Costa Rica, 2004: indigenous peoples'-led expert meeting on traditional forest-related knowledge and the expert meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The organization prepared a paper and made a presentation at this expert meeting. The Executive Director of the Association was active in formulating recommendations, particularly those of the Northern working group. The organization disseminated information on the experts meeting in 2005 leading up to the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests; (b) the National Aboriginal Forestry Association hosted a teleconference on the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests with various aboriginal organizations in Canada; (c) the Executive Director of the Association was part of the Canadian delegation to the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and made a presentation at an indigenous peoples' side event; (d) January 2006, Ottawa, the Executive Director participated in a conference call with representatives of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and other members of major groups.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

(a) Sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 2006: the Executive Director collaborated with major groups at a multi-stakeholder session on the development of an official statement; (b) country-led multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, "Charting the way forward to 2015", 2007, Bali, Indonesia; (c) workshop on "International forest policy and the United Nations non-legally binding instrument 2007", Ottawa: the Executive Director hosted and chaired the meeting to brief indigenous peoples organizations on the United Nations Forum on Forests, the country-led multi-year programme of work and other international forest policy initiatives; (d) seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests 2007: the Executive Director facilitated the Forum's multi-stakeholder process as a major group representative. The goal of the Executive Director was to collaborate with indigenous organizations and other major groups in order to achieve more appropriate recognition of indigenous peoples' forest issues in the non-legally binding instrument.

C. Initiatives in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: in addition to the above, the organization has written annual papers on the international forest policy dialogue, including the United Nations Forum on Forests, to inform indigenous peoples in

Canada of the impact of international processes on their rights. The organization does not have the financial resources to participate fully in relevant United Nations meetings and process. As an indigenous peoples NGO in a developed country, the Association is not eligible to receive international development funding. The Association has a strong interest in the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the theme "Forests for people and livelihoods" and in regional and inter-sessional meetings leading up to that session.

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1. Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The goal of the Arab Mexican Chamber of Industry and Commerce is to strengthen and promote the economic and trade relations between Arab countries and Mexico. The organization carries out the following activities: (a) development of studies, information and statistics: since one of the main barriers to trade between both areas is mutual lack of knowledge, the organization publishes all types of market studies and profiles, business manuals and trade statistics on Mexico and the Arab countries; (b) promotion of business opportunities: commercial opportunities that contribute to the industrial development in both regions are promoted; (c) training programmes and seminars: to increase the knowledge between both regions training programmes and seminars are organized to enhance the skills and expertise of members of the organization; (d) advice and consulting: in order to guide the members towards successful negotiations, advice and consulting is provided on trade, industrial projects and capital investment; (e) international events and commercial missions: to promote the successful introduction of new products into foreign markets, the organization coordinates commercial missions and promotes the participation of Mexican delegations in international fairs in Arab countries and organizes delegations of Arab businessmen to Mexico; (f) development of studies, information and statistics: the organization has carried out work on 125 country profiles related to Arab countries and the main products to be exported to those countries. The organization also developed business guidebooks for 22 Arab countries; (g) training programmes and seminars: seminars and conferences about logistics and strategies for exporting goods to Arab countries, business opportunities, business conditions, bank guarantees and payment procedures were organized; (h) promotion of business opportunities: the organization promotes specific business opportunities to its membership; (i) international events and commercial missions: with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the organization routinely promotes the participation of Mexico in fairs in Arab countries and organizes official commercial missions to promote the interests of Mexican companies in Arab countries.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

To contribute to the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the organization offers information, trade statistics and advice on the trade-related matters between Mexico and Arab countries. To support the activities and aims of the Council, the organization also supports the strengthening of cooperative links with Mexican industries on economic and social issues. The organization recognizes the important role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to the access and transfer of knowledge and technology. The organization has been contributing to solving economic problems of concern to the United Nations. Research carried out by the organization provides detailed information on the market needs of Arab countries and helps to identify products

that could fulfil those needs and gives solutions to their trade-related economic problems.

From 2005 to 2008, the organization held multiple events to increase trade and reinforce relations between both regions.

2005: A commercial mission, including 10 Mexican companies, to Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Algeria, during which the organization held meetings with the chambers of commerce and Government representatives in each country, and Mexican companies held meetings with their counterparts.

2006: Two commercial missions, the first to Egypt, Morocco and Algeria, included 9 Mexican companies, and the second to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, included 6 Mexican companies.

2007: (a) One mission to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait with the participation of 11 Mexican companies; (b) The organization received a delegation from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and organized meetings with representatives of Mexican companies.

2008: (a) Two commercial missions, the first to Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan, included seven Mexican companies, and the second, to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Lebanon, with 10 Mexican companies; (b) the organization received an Egyptian delegation and organized meetings with representatives of Mexican companies; (c) supported, promoted and participated in the first Lebanese exhibition in Mexico, including the participation of 30 Lebanese companies; (d) we organized an "Arab week" in Mexico City, giving the people in Mexico the opportunity to know about the culture, art, typical food, music and typical clothes of Arab countries. As a result of the above activities and its work with the Governments and chambers of commerce in both regions, from 2005 to 2008 exports from Mexico to Arab countries increased 204 per cent and the imports from Arab countries to Mexico increased 138 per cent. Owing to a lack of funds, the organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies nor did it attend major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period.

2. Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Special, 1997

I. Aims and purposes

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in 1987 as the national justice, peace and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Conference mandates the Council to promote research, education, to undertake advocacy and promote action on social justice, integrating them deeply into the life of the whole Catholic community, and to provide a credible voice on these matters in Australian society. The Council is accountable to the Conference through the Bishops' Commission for Justice and Development. The primary constituency of the Council is the 26 per cent of the Australian population that is Catholic. The Council works with other religious and secular organizations in Australia and through an international network of Catholic justice and peace organizations and other human rights organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an active participant in public policy debate in Australia — seeking social justice and the protection of human rights according to the principles of Catholic social teaching and the system of rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other instruments of the United Nations.

II. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Council had difficulty in attending overseas conferences and intergovernmental forums of the United Nations owing to limitations in staff hours, but it intends to increase its attendance. In addition, following its 2004 communications with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Chair-Rapporteur of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Council, after appropriately raising particular human rights issues that could not be resolved at the national level with the relevant officials of the United Nations has directed the focus of its advocacy work to the Liberal Coalition Government (2005-2007) and the Labour Government (2007-present).

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In July 2008, the President of the Council communicated with the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs of the United Nations by way of a contribution to the high-level segment of the Council concerning the 2008 annual ministerial review on the implementation of internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development. The organization submitted a study, "Ending hunger — How far can we go?" highlighting strategies to reinvigorate implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

A. Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The above-mentioned study, which was launched in June 2005, and its subsequent promotion through the Council's quarterly journal, *Justice Trends*, every Catholic parish and social justice group throughout Australia has been encouraged to take action to support the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities in support of global principles

Regarding trade justice and the right to development, following stalled negotiations between Timor-Leste and Australia over oil and gas reserves under the contested boundaries of the Timor Sea, the Conference, with the assistance of the Council, issued a call on 9 May 2005 for parties to resume negotiations with a particular concern for the humanitarian needs of the country and its right to development. The Council's publication, *The Timor Sea's Oil and Gas: What's fair?*, was used by both parties to the negotiations. ACSJC helped to organize events during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Sydney in 2007.

Following the above-mentioned 2004 communication with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Council raised its concerns during the consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and NGOs in Canberra, in 2005. Identical concerns were raised in the concluding observations on Australia submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/AUS/CO/14). In March 2006, members of the Council met with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission to raise public awareness of issues and to address child and family abuse in remote indigenous communities. The Government's suspension of provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act (1975) has allowed the imposition of social security restrictions that could contravene articles 1, 4, 2 and 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. On Human Rights Day in 2008, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the Council issued a statement in conjunction with indigenous leaders calling for the reinstatement of the provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act.

Throughout the reporting period, the Council has repeatedly corresponded with Government ministers and advocated for asylum-seekers subject to the then Government's "Pacific solution" with regard to the deportation of unsuccessful claimants to unsafe destinations. Unwarranted limitations or contraventions concerned, among others, articles 31(1) and 33(1) of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and articles 7 and 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In October 2008, the Government funded the "Trafficking in Humans" network to provide outreach support to victims, raise awareness and help the Government develop a national anti-trafficking strategy.

Until May 2007, the Council protested the arbitrary detention of the remaining Australian detainee at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and sought a proper trial for him before a non-military court, or his release and return. The Council drew on the reports of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, particularly its report to the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2006/120).

In December 2007, the Council publication *Confronting the Death Penalty: People, Politics and Principle* was launched. Copies were sent to every Member of Parliament, and it has been used to advocate for a more consistent position against capital punishment by the Government in both domestic and international circles. The Council has also made numerous statements and issued pleas for clemency for both Australian and foreign nationals facing the death penalty in overseas jurisdictions.

Broad support for the United Nations as a global institution for justice, development and peace has been provided through nationally distributed discussion guides, which have noted the role of the United Nations in ensuring that all nations have their place at the table on matters of human rights and development.

As an organization aligning its work with the aims of the United Nations International Decade for the Cultivation of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, the Council is grateful for this opportunity to submit its report for the period from 2005 to 2008.

3. Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science is an independent institute for research, education and implementation of gender equality, and thus of sustainable social, cultural and economic development in large-scale field experiences, pursuant to its commitment to the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations — equal treatment, opportunities, participation, power of decision and definition for both genders; sustainable development; love, peace and justice, aiming specifically at implementing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It provides information, innovative strategies, approaches and concepts, educates experts in the above subjects and supervises the implementation of programmes.

In accordance with Millennium Development Goal 3 (Gender equality and empowerment of women), the Center requires that female genital mutilation be overcome in the community at large as a fundamental action. Using a value-centred comprehensive approach, the Center has brought about a cultural transformation in the Mosocho division in Kenya. Since 2002, thousands of fathers and mothers have decided to safeguard their daughters by forgoing female genital mutilation. The core of this process is to focus on formal, non-formal and informal education and training for all sections and levels in order to generate qualified multipliers. The Mosocho staff decided to call their activities the "Fulda-Mosocho project". The name comes from the special cooperation between Fulda, Germany and the division of Mosocho, Kenya, in all steps, parts and levels of the project.

The Center "focuses on enabling meaningful learning experiences that foster sustainable behaviour", "educational institutions" and "families and communities". As required under the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Center promotes the sustainable development of individuals and thus the social, cultural and economic development of families and communities. To advance the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the Center has increased its cooperation and partnership on all levels. Information provided by the Center can be found in policy papers of the Kenyan Government, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and NGOs.

The Center has become a focal point in overcoming female genital mutilation by implementing gender equality and expanding its engagement to national and local activities.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and in activities in support of global principles

In the period under review cooperation between the Center and the United Nations was strengthened, in line with the request of the Organization that new research findings, results and best practices be made available:

(a) The Mosocho project was presented at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2007. At the invitation of the working group on female genital mutilation/cutting the Director of the Center made a presentation on "How to eliminate female circumcision"; (i) a representative of the Center made a statement to the interactive expert panel on the elimination of all forms of violence against women on "Transformed education for chiefs, clan elders and officials to support the implementation of human rights for girls"; (ii) in an interactive dialogue in March 2007 on progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, a representative made a statement on an example of successful programmes to foster the concept of gender equality among men and boys;

(b) Cooperation with UNICEF: the UNICEF Donors Working Group meeting in Berlin in 2007, included a discussion of information on female genital mutilation/cutting made available by the Center to the Commission on the Status of Women. UNICEF Kenya and the Kenyan Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Development visited the Mosocho division in April 2008. The final report for a study on social dynamics of abandonment of harmful practices in Kenya, and "updates", together with the Center's scientific expertise led to the inclusion of the value-centred approach and the Fulda-Mosocho project as the best practice project of Kenya in UNICEF's multi-country study on the social dynamics of the abandonment of harmful practices;

(c) The experience with the value-centred approach promoted the draft of the Kenyan national plan of action for the elimination of female genital mutilation (2008-2012) and the Government's anti-female genital mutilation policy. As a member of the national coordinating committee for the policy, the Center submitted a policy document at the national planning meeting within the framework of the UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Government of Kenya joint programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, in July 2008 (Kilaguni Lodge, Kenya);

(d) Involvement in the "International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation" since 2005: (i) new research findings on harmful traditional practices and the empowerment of women presented at the European Parliament conference in Brussels in 2007; (ii) participation in the international conference on female genital mutilation and forced/early marriages, Brussels, February 2007;

(e) Position papers for: (i) an online forum on women in leadership roles, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, moderated by the Division for the Advancement of Women (Nov.-Dec. 2007); (ii) online discussion on achieving sustainable development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Feb.-March 2008); (iii) online discussion on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving, in the context of HIV/AIDS, Division for the Advancement of Women and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (July-Aug. 2008);

(f) Nomination of the Director of the Center and the Fulda-Mosocho project by the European Parliament for its Human Rights Prize, September 2006. In that context, 150 artists from all over the world documented the pain of female genital mutilation. A selection of art was published in the booklet "Don't".

B. Initiatives undertaken by the organization

(a) In Africa, the Center continued to focus on the needs of people at the grass-roots level and enlarged its initiative in Kenya on the Fulda-Mosocho project. On the scientific basis of the value-centred approach, it developed curricula and programmes to change behaviour and attitudes in the field of gender equality, in particular the abandonment of female genital mutilation; (b) the value-centred approach was also applied in 17 one-day workshops for chiefs, 25 seminars for 300 clan elders, 88 seminars for (former) circumcisers, 1 seminar for church leaders and 15 seminars for gookos and guardians.

In December 2008, over 40 major public events were held to document the achievements of "A new growth in the Gusii culture". At the fifth anniversary, in 2008, 10,000 people, community members and guests, took part to celebrate and honour the safeguarded girls and the decision of their parents to leave their daughters uncircumcised. This large-scale experience in the field has inspired not only the Government of Kenya — divisions and districts around Mosocho, have also requested that the value-centred approach be applied in their regions.

Dissemination of Millennium Development Goals through publications: outreach work/networking

(a) The Director of the Center has contributed scientific articles to advance the goals of the United Nations and the European Union; (b) the Center has expanded its income-generating project "As Friends to Kenya" to give interested persons a chance to engage in volunteer work; (c) 30 workshops, lectures and 80 multimedia presentations in Germany on Female Genital Mutilation, including ongoing international, regional, national and local networking and lobbying with the Government and NGOs; (d) cooperation with the International Federation of University Women on the Millennium Development Goals — Keynote presentation on speeding up the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, including a panel on the Millennium Goals "What are we doing to reach them?" at the Federation's twenty-ninth conference in Manchester, United Kingdom in August 2007.

4. Confederation of Business Women of Russia

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Confederation of Business Women of Russia, which brings together business women and female top managers at enterprises of various types from over 64 regions of the Russian Federation (17,000 entities and over 5,000 individuals), constitutes one of the most efficient and powerful women organizations in the Russian Federation. The Confederation initiated the concept of ethical business and developed the gender strategy for the Russian Federation. The President is a member of the inter-agency committee to provide equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women and a member of the coordinating committee on gender issues. With the assistance of the Presidents of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, the Confederation organizes the Commonwealth of Independent States women's business forums.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2006, in cooperation with UNDP, the Confederation organized an international business women's forum on socio-economic integration and development, with over 400 participants. In 2008, the organization held another meeting, "Women entrepreneurship amid the crisis: search for solutions", with 500 members participating. The subject of these meetings attracted the attention of the Government and society at large. Women's problems were generally recognized to have fundamental social importance, with women as part of the most socially vulnerable segments of the population. According to the United Nations, women, who make up half of the world population, do one third of all paid jobs and two thirds of unpaid jobs, but receive only 10 per cent of global income and own 1 per cent of global property.

The situation in the Russian Federation and countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States is the same. Women's and family business activity, both in Russia and most post-Soviet countries, has developed, first and foremost, as the most important factor for the elimination of gender inequality in terms of employment and income distribution. It should be noted that the development of women's and family business activity has always been controlled, inter alia, by imperfect law and an absence of support from the Government.

The global financial crisis has turned out to be disastrous for women's business activity, and the organization is working to attract the attention of the Government and society to the gender aspects of the crisis and to find adequate solutions. The Confederacy, in association with UNDP, is an active participant in contests, joint projects and programmes of public importance. In 2008, the organization participated in monitoring women's rights in the Russian Federation ("A thousand

women's stories"), a programme for the development of small business in Moscow in 2005 and 2006. The organization also issued a report on the development of women's business activity in connection with the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

During the reporting period, a number of important international and national events were held, including: (a) public hearings on the subject of the contribution of women's business activity to overcoming poverty through the establishment of the non-governmental social services market in the context of implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration; (b) the President of the Confederation participated in the first international Libyan conference on women and law and accepted an invitation from the Supreme Council of Bahraini Women to participate in the meeting of Russian business women and representatives of the Association of Business Women of Bahrain.

Given the positive nature of the meetings held, there was a certain basis for the further development of cooperation between public organizations in the three countries. Considering the importance of consolidating the position of the Russian Federation in the region and the necessity of developing cooperation with Asian and African countries in that connection, it was thought reasonable to continue and systematize these activities.

5. International Union of Architects

Special, 1949

I. Introduction

The International Union of Architects works to unite the architects of the world on a democratic basis and to represent them at international and governmental levels so to ensure the continued development of professional methods and the high-level of educational criteria while respecting the specificity of different communities and providing aid in the sustainable development of the built environment, disaster relief and "housing without borders".

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: Mauritius, January, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, international meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

2006: (a) Canada, June, United Nations World Urban Forum; (b) Geneva, July, substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

2007: (a) Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, Geneva; (b) September, Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Housing and Land Management.

2008: (a) Nanjing, China, November, United Nations World Urban Forum; (b) Poznan, Poland, December, preparatory meeting for the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Representatives of the Union attended:

2005: (a) Paris, January, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), third drafting meeting of the UNESCO/OECD guidelines on quality provision in cross-border higher education; (b) Geneva, January, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), experts meeting on trade and development aspects of professional services and regulatory frameworks; (c) Paris, April, UNESCO Higher Education Division, ninth NGO consultation on higher education, working group on higher education and the challenges of cross-border higher education; (d) Paris, October, UNESCO celebration of its sixtieth anniversary and holding of its General Conference; (e) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris, May, Union's contribution to the Vienna memorandum on historic urban landscape; (f) Vienna, May, UNESCO-World Heritage Centre,

International Conference: World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture; (g) Nairobi, September, Africities summit. Collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi, agreement of cooperation between the Union and UN-Habitat.

2006: (a) Geneva, June, 117th session of the Executive Council of the World Health Organization (WHO); (b) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Jerusalem, June, workshop on historic cities in the twenty-first century; (c) Vilnius, July, thirtieth session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (d) Nairobi, September, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Africities Summit; (e) collaboration with UN-Habitat, Monday, 2 October, World Day of Architecture in connection with UN-Habitat World Day of Habitat on the theme: "Cities, magnets of hope".

2007: (a) Paris, October-November, thirty-fourth session of UNESCO General Conference; (b) collaboration with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, January-February, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, regional workshop on historic urban landscapes; (c) Christchurch, New Zealand, June-July, thirty-first session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (d) Paris, October, sixteenth session of UNESCO World Heritage Centre; (e) collaboration with UN-Habitat, Nairobi, April, twenty-first session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council; (f) 1 October, World Day of Architecture in connection with UN-HABITAT World Day of Habitat.

2008: (a) Turin, Italy, June, signature of a partnership agreement between the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Union; (b) Geneva, September, sixty-ninth session of Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Housing and Land Management; (c) collaboration with UN-Habitat: Turin, Italy, July, second cooperation agreement between the Union and UN-Habitat; (d) Pordenone, Italy, October, celebration of the World Day of Architecture on the theme "Architecture and cities for our children" in connection with the World Habitat Day on the theme "Harmonious Cities"; and (e) Persepolis, Islamic Republic of Iran, October, World Olympiad for Urban Design, expert group meeting of UN-Habitat and the International Art and Architecture Research Association.

Activities in line with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

In 2006, the Union held an international competition, "Celebration of cities", inviting architects to rethink cities in order to create a true urbanity and a sustainable social life style to help eradicate poverty.

6. National Association of Cuban Economists

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The National Association of Cuban Economists is an NGO founded on 14 June 1979. It is made up of a national committee composed of 75 members elected by Congress every five years, with a national executive council and provincial committees, with their corresponding Councils, in the 14 provinces of the country. In addition, there are 169 committees in municipalities and 4,743 grass-root sections. The Association has 17 scientific societies in which the members participate according to their professional interest. The Association is totally self-financed. Its members pay a monthly fee and, through its consultancy enterprise, CANEC, technical, economic and accounting advice is offered by more than 1,290 consultants (80 per cent of whom are retired). The consultancy provides the Association with the necessary financial means for its performance. The main objectives of the Association are to promote professional upgrading and raise the level of knowledge of all workers in the field to provide advice, training and to establish relations with professionals and international institutions in the economic sphere.

The Association publishes a bimonthly newspaper *El Economista*, with a print run of 20,000 copies, and a weekly electronic newspaper of the same name on its website (see http://eleconomista.cubaweb.cu). The Association also publishes, with the University of Havana, the journal "*Economia y Desarrollo*".

The Association holds the Presidency of the Association of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Vice-Presidency of the Association of Caribbean Economists. It is a member of the International Institute of Costs, the International Union of Economists, the Executive of the Latin American Federation of Internal Auditors, the Association of Agricultural Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American Studies Association. The Association holds numerous scientific events, the most important of which is the annual International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, which is attended by economists from more than 60 countries, including the specialized agencies of the United Nations. These events have been honoured by the presence of nine Nobel Prize laureates in the field of economics and two Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The Association has participated in numerous activities of the Economic and Social Council and, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNCTAD, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), participated in and presented papers:

2005: (a) Seventh International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations;

(b) hearings of NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations about the reform of the institution, New York.

2006: (a) Eighth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) meeting of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD, New York; (c) UNCTAD hearing with civil society and the private sector, New York.

2007: (a) Ninth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, United Nations Headquarters.

2008: (a) Tenth International Conference of Economists on Globalization and Development Problems, held in Cuba, with the participation of the United Nations; (b) regional dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean before the twelfth Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD, SELA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); (c) tenth Congress of Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean, including the participation of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota.

7. National Association of Realtors

Special, 1989

I. Introduction

The vision of the National Association of Realtors is to be the collective force influencing and shaping the real estate industry. It seeks to be the leading advocate of the right to own, use and transfer real property; the acknowledged leader in developing standards for efficient, effective and ethical real estate business practices; and to be valued by real estate professionals as crucial to their success. Working on behalf of America's property owners, the Association provides a facility for professional development, research and the exchange of information among its members, including the public and the Government, for the purpose of preserving the free enterprise system and the right to own, use and transfer real property.

Within its organizational structure is the International Operations Group, which seeks to ensure that global real estate markets are accessible, profitable and ethical. The Association's position as a widely recognized leader in the international real estate community enhances the success of its members in the global marketplace and its role as corporate citizen. This is primarily effected through strategic alliances and related efforts designed to: (a) support the adoption of compatible real estate standards; (b) advance real property rights; and (c) mitigate impediments to the global transaction of real estate.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The work of the Association in support of the Economic and Social Council and of the United Nations in general has largely be pursued in conjunction with or through support of various organizations and bodies closely associated with or created by the Association itself, including the International Housing Coalition and the International Real Property Foundation. These groups support the goals of the United Nations, particularly with regard to resolutions passed by the General Assembly involving issues of shelter, urban development, property rights, housing policy and finance. In addition, the Association has successfully advocated for voluntary contributions to UN-Habitat and funding for water programmes for the poor in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The Association seeks to bring together organized professional bodies of real estate practitioners around the world to engage in support of activities related to shelter conducted by national development agencies. The Association has supported the relevant goals of the United Nations since 1976 when it participated in the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I). In the intervening years the Association has supported and testified before the United States Congress in support of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter and formed a close working relationship with UN-Habitat.

Specific events and activities during the reporting period include: (a) third session of the World Urban Forum: June 2006, Vancouver, Canada; at which the Association provided administrative and financial support, under the coordination of the International Housing Coalition. The Coalition sponsored/commissioned 11 housing

resource papers, covering a wide range of housing issues. The papers were widely distributed and provided background information, data and case studies for 12 interactive workshops; the Association was responsible for the drafting of a paper and organizing an interactive workshop on "Affordable housing in the United States: some optimistic approaches"; (b) fourth session of the World Urban Forum, November 2008, Nanjing, China; through its participation in and financial contribution to the International Housing Coalition, the Association supported two networking events: "Urban land markets in Africa and housing the poor", and "Donor assistance for housing and urban development".

Specific legislative/advocacy activities for the time period from 2005-2008 include: (a) March-April 2007, letter writing campaign to members of the United States Congress regarding support for two provisions in fiscal year 2008 budget for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), related to international housing needs; (b) continued funding for the International Real Property Foundation at a level of $3 million; (c) support for a provision included in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request for $5 million for an Africa Housing and Infrastructure Facility. Both initiatives were designed to assist countries to achieve decent and safe housing for their citizens.

The Association supported increased funding for the Paul Simon "water for the poor" act in fiscal year 2008. The act, signed into law on 1 December 2005, makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of United States foreign assistance programmes.

The Association, in support of the International Housing Coalition, periodically provides administration advocacy assistance in the preparation of letters and the arrangement of appointments for the staff and representatives of the Coalition on global housing issues with members of the United States Congress.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. African Business Roundtable

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The African Business Roundtable promotes private sector participation in the economic development of African countries and facilitates private-public partnership and involvement in business as global players. Its main actions are carried out through dialogue and active participation in formulating policies conducive to private sector development and sustainable economic growth.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Member of the organizing committee for the event "Bending the Arc", London, 2005; (b) The President of the organization spoke during the tenth International Business Forum on the theme "The role of the private sector in development"; (c) Sixtieth session of the General Assembly: the President spoke on the theme: "The vital role that business plays in meeting the societal commitment embodied in the Millennium Development Goals"; (d) Meeting of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at United Nations Headquarters, 2006: the President chaired the meeting with Chair of the NEPAD secretariat and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships; (e) high-level summit of the Economic and Social Council in July 2006 at United Nations Headquarters: round-table meeting on the challenges of employment creation in Africa and the least developed countries. The President spoke on the theme: "Creating an environment at national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent for work for all and its impact on sustainable development"; (f) International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: the organization was on the steering committee and participated actively during the second International Business Forum held alongside the conference. The President gave an opening address and acted as the moderator of the meeting on "Proposals for building an enabling environment and enhancing donor effectiveness".

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

The President spoke at the fourth Africa-Asia Business Forum in 2007, a follow-up event of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The organizers were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and NEPAD.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The President was a member of the steering committee of the Food Advisory Council and participated in discussions on how to achieve food and nutrition security.

2. Canadian Council of Churches

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Canadian Council of Churches provides a forum for the sharing of information and concerns among people involved in ecumenical work on peace and social justice in Canada and the world, reflecting biblically and theologically on peace and social justice, and facilitating cooperation between churches in the areas of peace and justice. Traditionally, the organization's involvement with United Nations agencies has been in the area of human rights. The Canadian Council of Churches has a long history of advocacy for civil, political, economic, social, cultural, women, indigenous, refugee and children's rights, as well as for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, and has advocated on behalf of Canadian churches and their partners at a variety of United Nations forums.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Delegates of the Council have participated in the meetings of the Human Rights Commission, world conferences such as the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including: (a) the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Commission: briefs on the situation in Darfur, Colombia and Timor-Leste and a resolution on impunity were distributed; (b) representatives received accreditation to the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that met in New York in April 2005; (c) sixty-second session of the Human Rights Commission; (d) fourth special session of the Human Rights Council; (e) seventh session of the Human Rights Council, 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

The Council continues to benefit from its special consultative status. Its ongoing participation in United Nations events has been an effective way both to learn from different perspectives and experiences and to advocate for a more just and peaceful world.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council is working on building partnerships for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the coming years.

3. Center for Inquiry

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The purpose of the Center for Inquiry is to promote and defend reason, science and freedom of inquiry in all areas of human endeavour. It encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism and society. It is not affiliated with nor does it promote any political party or political ideology. Based in the United States of America and maintaining programmes in over a dozen countries, the Center engages in research, publishing, education and advocacy, particularly in the areas of freedom of conscience, belief and expression.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, Paris, 2008: representatives attended and participated in discussions on freedom of expression and universality of human rights; (b) oral statement to the ninth session of the Human Rights Council on "defamation of religions"; (c) "Freedom of expression and the Human Rights Council", side event for NGOs and delegations organized by the Center in 2008; (d) written submission to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council on "The European Court of Human Rights and the Interpretation of Advocacy of Religious Hatred that Constitutes Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility, or Violence", March 2009; (e) oral statement to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council on the Durban Review Process, March 2009; (f) joined the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Geneva and New York); (g) attended Department of Public Information NGO briefings at Headquarters in New York.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or at Headquarters

(a) Educational cruise to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site: in preparation for the event, the Center invited the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to deliver lectures; (b) research on public science literacy: in 2006 the Center began collaboration on a major national survey of Indian scientists' beliefs about education, society and values (http://www.worldviewsofscientists.org); (c) attended and spoke at NGO briefings on the Alliance of Civilizations and released, at the Human Rights Council, a related research paper entitled "Is there a clash of civilizations?"; (d) released a research paper at the ninth session of the Human Rights Council on "Islam and human rights".

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Center published the following editorials in its United States-based magazine *Free Inquiry* addressing core global principles of equality and the right to economic development, including: "America's Shame: Neglected Treaties", "The Industrial-Technological Revolution", "The Principles of Fairness: Progressive Taxation", and "Planetary Ethics".

The Center also became involved in two initiatives to promote stronger American support of the United Nations: the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (http://www.unausa.org) and the Better World Campaign (http://www.betterworldcampaign.org).

4. Centre for Organisation Research and Education

Special, 2005

The goal of the Centre for Organisation Research and Education is "to work towards recognition and respect for the right to a self-determined future, in partnership with the indigenous peoples of India, with respect for our ancient inheritance, building on our faith in humanity's role of trusteeship of resources, in peace with all other peoples". Since 2008, the Centre has enlarged its area of operations over the western coastal areas of India as well as the north-eastern region in response to the importance of our work on climate change, which most acutely affects coastal areas.

I. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- Fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2005
- "Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance: role of education and awareness raising", July 2005, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
- Working Group on Indigenous Populations, July, Geneva
- UNDP consultation meeting, November 2005, Manila
- Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 2006, Geneva
- Sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2007
- United Nations Climate Change Conference, Bali, Indonesia, December 2007
- Seminar on participation of indigenous peoples' organizations at the United Nations, 2007, New York
- Expert panel discussion at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2008
- First session of the Universal Periodic Review, 2007, Geneva
- Seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2008

Statements and actively participated in indigenous caucuses and gender caucuses and at all meetings. In addition, as an active participant in furthering the United Nations agenda, the Centre has carried out the following activities at the national and international levels, presenting papers and technical inputs in support of United Nations goals:

- Executive Director acted as resource person on refugees from Myanmar in Thailand, Chiang Mai University
- Worked with UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on health-related concerns and issues related to indigenous peoples, women and children

- Amnesty International, India programme on human rights violations, monitoring and advocacy in the north-eastern region of India
- "Rivers for Life", the second International Meeting of Dam-Affected People and Their Allies, Thailand
- Land rights of indigenous peoples, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Expert resource person, South Asia Consultation Water Resource Management, Kathmandu
- Report on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in India, December 2004
- Strategies for the prevention of child labour in Asian developing countries, 2005, Wagga-Wagga, Australia
- International Catholic Child Bureau Consultation on Child Rights and Resilience, June 2005, Geneva
- Seventh ethnic community development seminar, July 2005, Bangkok
- Conference on development and aid, August 2005, Bangkok
- First regional leadership course for young leaders, November-December 2005, Thailand
- Australian conference on child abuse and neglect, February 2006, Wellington, New Zealand
- Seminar on women from conflict areas, 2005, Srinagar, India
- Jubilee South Summit, September 2005, Havana
- Indigenous child event, October 2005, Toronto, Canada
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, November 2006, Thailand
- Workshop: International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, September 2006, Dhaka
- Environment seminar on Myanmar: natural resources exploitation, January 2006, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Orientation planning for indigenous peoples/minorities researchers, July 2006, organized by Forum Asia, Bangkok
- Seminar on transboundary water issues, August 2006, Dhaka
- Asia legal training seminar, August 2006, Dhaka
- "What Next" forum, September 2006, Uppsala, Sweden
- Survey of self-employed women in Imphal
- Joint submission on "Territories, land and natural resources", submitted in conjunction with the Indian Confederation on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples-North East Zone, 2007
- Seventh Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2008

- Submission on indigenous peoples' rights to the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2009
- Eighth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2009, statement on agenda item 3: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum
- The Centre has worked intensively with indigenous organizations and peoples to raise the issue of the rights of indigenous children in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- The Centre celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March annually

The Centre's contribution has been very limited due to the limited availability of funds for work pertaining to indigenous peoples, particularly for indigenous peoples in India.

5. Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The aim of Eurasian Harm Reduction Network is to support, develop and advocate harm reduction approaches in the field of drugs, HIV/AIDS, public health and social exclusion. While the aims, purposes and geographical region covered by the Network remain the same, the name of the organization was changed in 2007 by the decision of the governing body from the Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network to the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, with the goal to better reflect the membership of stakeholders from Central Asia and more precisely reflect its work in 29 countries (the change was introduced in 2008, while officially the organization reregistered by the new name on 1 July 2009). The key purposes of the organization are: (a) developing and sustaining the networking among different stakeholders in order to assist development of responses to HIV/AIDS epidemics, drug use and other related problems, including effective policies and practices; (b) improving the capacity of local non-governmental and governmental organizations to advocate evidence-based approaches and rights of vulnerable groups; (c) helping to raise awareness and link with other existing international networks; and (d) evaluating the efficiency of harm reduction programmes in the region, including publicizing and disseminating the results of these activities to communities, Governments and the international community.

The role of the Network varies throughout the priority areas and covers the following activities areas or programmes: (a) national and regional documentation and advocacy for services and enabling policies; (b) capacity-building and technical assistance (through its harm reduction knowledge hub); (c) information development and networking; (d) human rights of vulnerable groups; (e) special initiatives.

The specific goals of the organization for the period from 2007 to 2009, as adopted during the strategic planning meeting in October 2006, are: (a) to employ less repressive and non-discriminative policies with regard to drug users and other vulnerable groups (including sex workers, prisoners and people living with HIV/AIDS); and (b) to strengthen evidence-based practices and services for vulnerable groups.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

Since the acquisition of special status, representatives of the Network have attended and/or participated in: (a) fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 2008 (the Network's representative made a statement regarding the thematic debate); (b) 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS, June 2008, United Nations Headquarters; (c) forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs, Vienna, 2006 and 2007; (d) participation in the "Beyond 2008 Process", a global NGO forum on the review of the General Assembly special session on illicit drugs, including two regional consultations in October 2007 in Kiev and November 2007 in Belgrade; (e) preparations for the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (March, 2009) to evaluate the achievement of the Political Declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (1998).

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Network cooperated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in activity planning and implementation. Financial support was received from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and WHO, mainly for technical support and capacity-building in harm reduction in the Eurasian region; UNICEF provided a grant for research and documentation of drug use, health and rights on underage and young drug users. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided a grant to address gender in policies and services related to injecting drug users.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Network links its objectives to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In its presentations at various national and regional forums the Network reminds members and partners of the links between harm reduction advocacy and the Millennium Development Goals.

6. Centre for Adivasee Studies and Peace

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Centre for Adivasee Studies and Peace is an NGO that promotes the human rights of Chenchus, a group of indigenous people in Andhra Pradesh, India. The Centre is registered with a number of Government regulatory bodies to carry out activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Centre did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period due to inadequate funds, but expects to raise more funds to expand its activities and to set up an office in New York in order to work more closely with the Council.

The Chair of the Centre was an observer at the meeting of the Clean Technology Fund Trust Fund Committee (World Bank Group) in May 2009 in Washington, D.C.

The Centre has not applied for nor has it received any funds from United Nations subsidiaries in India, but it has contributed to the activities of the United Nations through locally raised funds.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

The Centre participated as an observer at conferences and other meetings sponsored by the United Nations system from 2005 to 2008, including the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2007. In addition, the Centre conducted an indigenous peoples' rights campaign and worked with the indigenous peoples of Andhra Pradesh, in cooperation with the District Medical and Health Officer/Chief Medical Officer, in implementing UNICEF programmes. The Centre also offered its services to self-help groups and heath education camps in the region.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Centre worked to promote human rights by focusing, inter alia, on the following Millennium Development Goals: **Goal 1**: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 4**: Reduce child mortality; **Goal 5**: Improve maternal health; **Goal 6**: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and **Goal 7**: Environmental sustainability encompassing other goals. This work involves: educating women and

adolescent girls about their rights and conducting village-wide training and awareness camps for indigenous peoples; a focus on climate change by providing indigenous peoples with the latest agricultural techniques for forest areas, including education about halting deforestation, the reduction of greenhouse gases and pollution, as well as disseminating the objectives of UNEP. In addition, the Centre runs an outreach programme based on the Millennium Development Goals, which focuses on promoting gender equality, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability.

7. International Center for Clubhouse Development

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The International Center for Clubhouse Development is an NGO committed to improving the lives of people living with mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, personality and anxiety disorders, etc.). It is the belief of the organization that recovery from mental illness is possible when a person is part of a community that offers hope, respect and opportunities for work, employment, a good home, education and friendship. One of the most powerful and restorative influences on this recovery process is the repeated tangible message of worthiness. This message is communicated through an inclusive, vibrant community that is focused on the potential contribution of all its members.

The organization is committed to the belief that every society in the world has the responsibility to assist its citizens living with mental illness as they seek to achieve a full and purposeful life. The mission of the Center is to help establish clubhouses in every city and town and to coordinate a vital international network that provides training, quality assurance, advocacy, research and encouragement. Clubhouses are places where people who are recovering from mental illness can experience success and reach their full potential in a welcoming, communal environment that offers ongoing access to friendships, education, housing, health care, employment and recovery.

During the reporting period, changes that may have had significant impact on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of its orientation, its programme and the scope of its work, include: (a) an increase in funding revenue from approximately $1,000,000 in 2005 to $1,300,000 in 2008 due to the growth in the number of individual donors; (b) the Center has organized a group of 14 partner organizations in Europe to form the European Partnership for Clubhouse Development, which was formally established in 2007 in Stockholm.

The goals of the Center are to: improve the social inclusion, educational and labour market integration and participation of people with mental illness and psychosocial problems in Europe; increase opportunities of mental health service users and ex-users in European countries to participate in empowering and supportive clubhouse communities; strengthen and extend ICCD's network and operations with other European clubhouses and other stakeholders in Europe; and to promote and coordinate the clubhouse model and collect the results for international dissemination.

The Center has added two member clubhouses in Africa (Kenya and Uganda), which, along with an established clubhouse in South Africa and a working group in Ghana, significantly increase its involvement in Africa. As of 2007, there was a working group seeking to establish a clubhouse in Rosario, Argentina, and the Center is presently active on six continents.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Center did not directly participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period. It focused its activities on the development and implementation of clubhouse programmes and partnerships and on raising public awareness about the serious issue of mental illness. The Center devoted its time to building and educating its international board of directors, strengthening its quality assurance training programmes and developing a global public awareness initiative, which is now funded and under way. The Center is now better positioned to participate in the activities of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Center has experienced the following ongoing problems: Information about international meetings and conferences is very sparse and generally arrives too late to be included in plans and budgets, and scarce funds and a small staff make attendance at international meetings very difficult. However, with the new European Partnership for Clubhouse Development and steadily increasing funds, it will be able to more fully participate in the United Nations programmes in the future. The Center took part in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the United Nations, although it experienced difficulties in communicating and in receiving timely information about activities and opportunities.

The Center supports the Declaration on Social Development developed by the Commission for Social Development. During the reporting period, the Center and its affiliated clubhouse and training organizations trained more than 400 groups to better serve disadvantaged people with serious mental illness, enabling them to more effectively participate in their local communities. The training programmes took place in the United States of America, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australia.

Through these training and technical assistance programmes, the employment rate for people with mental illness in the clubhouse system was greater than 40 per cent during the reporting period. This compares to a greater than an 80 per cent unemployment rate for people with mental illness in general.

During the reporting period the Center organized and implemented two international clubhouse seminars, one in Helsinki, in June 2005 (550 participants, 77 workshops, 8 general sessions, 19 countries represented) and one in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in October 2007 (760 participants, 77 workshops, 8 general sessions, 20 countries represented).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: the Center increased the number of certified clubhouses in the world for people with mental illness from 130 in 2005 to 150 in 2008. All clubhouses provide low cost or free meals on a daily basis.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: all certified clubhouses provide education opportunities to people with serious mental illness. With the increase in the number of clubhouses there is an ongoing increase in the availability of supported education and learning programmes.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: all clubhouses provide equal opportunities to women and men. There are no distinctions based on gender. With an increase in the number of clubhouses, there are increased opportunities for women. More than half of all active clubhouse members are women.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: all clubhouses provide basic advocacy and education about HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. More than 90 per cent of all clubhouses provide "wellness" and "health promotion" activities, programmes and education services. With the life expectancy rate for people with mental illness at about 25 years less on average than the typical person, this has become a major focus of the work of the clubhouses.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development: although the Center is a relatively young and small organization it currently has member organizations and development groups in more than 30 countries. All clubhouses and working groups are united by a consensually developed and consensually updated set of international best practice standards that are based on values and principles grounded in the belief that all human life is valuable in and of itself and that each individual has something to contribute no matter how disabled or disadvantaged. Fifteen to twenty clubhouses united by these standards opened annually during the reporting period.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies is an independent, autonomous and pan-African non-governmental organization based in Banjul. The African Centre seeks to promote the awareness of and adherence to human rights and democratic principles throughout the African continent. This is done through training, advocacy, networking, action-oriented research, publications and documentation. The African Centre also has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. All its activities and programmes are geared towards the improvement of the human rights situation on the African continent. This report covers the period between 2005 and 2008.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The African Centre participated in major United Nations conferences during the year under review, including: (a) the fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, February and March 2006, February and March 2007 and February and March 2008; (b) the forum on the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, May 2006 and November 2006 in Banjul; an update on the work of the Human Rights Council was featured in the programme of the NGO forum; after deliberations, resolutions and recommendations, the update was submitted to the African Commission for its consideration; (c) the forum on the participation of NGOs in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, May 2007 in Accra, and November 2007 in Brazzaville, Congo; an update on the work of the Human Rights Council and the Durban Review Conference on Racism was featured in the programme of the NGO forum; after deliberations, resolutions and recommendations, it was submitted to the African Commission for its consideration; (d) regional consultations on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, December 2007 in Lomé; (e) the African Preparatory Meeting of the Durban Review Conference, August 2008 in Abuja; (f) the International Steering Committee Meeting and the United Nations Democracy Caucus ministerial meeting during the General Assembly and as a spokesperson at the Meeting of the Council for a Community of Democracies, September 2008 in New York; (g) the Strategic Meeting on NGO participation in the United Nations Human Rights Council; the 2006 and 2007 evaluation and planning for 2008 took place in November 2008 in Sao Paulo, Brazil; (h) under the United Nations Democracy Fund project, which was funded by UNDP, the African Centre organized the following events in Banjul: sensitization workshop for local Government authorities, for local councillors, in September 2008; consultation for Civil Society Organizations and Mass Media in October 2008; consultation on the review of existing media laws in October 2008; sensitization workshop for security forces in November 2008; sensitization workshop for National Assembly Members in November 2008; (i) the African

Centre also organized a panel discussion on "Dignity and Justice for All" on the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2008 in Banjul.

The African Centre appreciates the opportunity to work with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and support the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The African Centre looks forward to a continued collaboration in the future.

2. Agrenska Foundation, AF (Grosshandlare Axel H. Agres Donationsfond)

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Aims, purposes and main courses of action of the organization

Agrenska provides programmes for children, youth and adults with functional disabilities and special competence in rare disorders. Our programmes also include their families and professionals concerned (the family programme). Agrenska wants to contribute to families coping with everyday life and make them as independent and equal as possible. It is also important for Agrenska to both develop and make proper tools available to patients suffering from any rare disease in order to improve their everyday life. In all its programmes, activities and projects, Agrenska has taken the United Nations standard rules into consideration. In addition to families, the majority of Agrenska's activities focus also on staff, managers and decision makers concerned with the above-mentioned areas. Agrenska gives support, exerts influence and supervises in many different ways.

Expanded areas of activities of Agrenska in Sweden

During the period 2005-2008, Agrenska expanded and introduced new activities, including: (a) 2005: started the Adult Programme for those with rare diseases so that they could meet others in the same situation and learn about their specific rare diseases; during those programmes, Agrenska took the opportunity to gather new information and increased competence; the Adult Programme is now a permanent activity at Agrenska; (b) started the personal assistance for persons with severe functional impairments who are entitled by Swedish law to personal assistance in various degrees depending on how their disabilities affect everyday life; Agrenska here provided services, including support with recruiting and employing personnel, all administration, educating the staff, participation in courses and further education free of charge, personal support through our competence and long experience within functional disabilities and access to Agrenska and its beautiful surroundings; (c) a two-year project in 2006-2008 to provide a communicative environment for persons with disabilities was successful; improved communication methods meant improved conditions for participation in society as well as all other communication. The project involved different environments. Agrenska collaborated with the School of Design and Craft at Gothenburg University and DART, the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication and assistive technology.

Expanded areas of activities of Agrenska abroad

Eesti Agrenska was inaugurated in October 2007 by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden and the First Lady of Estonia, Evelin Ilves. The centre is intended to be a high-quality rehabilitation centre similar to Agrenska in Sweden. It is situated in Estonia. Partners collaborating in the development of the centre are Tartu University, University Hospital in Tartu, Children's Hospital in Tartu and the umbrella organizations for all organizations in Estonia that cater to persons with disabilities.

Increased activities of the president of the organization

Anders Olauson, President of the European Patients' Forum since his election in June 2005, represents Rare Diseases Europe (EURORDIS) as a member of the board on which he also served as President from 1999 to 2001.

In 2008, Mr. Olauson was appointed to the Directorate of the Board, the governing body of The National Board of Health and Welfare, under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden. It has a very wide range of activities and many different duties within the fields of social services, health and medical services, environmental health, communicable disease prevention and control and epidemiology. The Government determines the policy guidelines for the work.

Mr. Olauson is also a member of the International Conference on Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs (ICORD), an organization with the mission to improve the welfare of patients with rare diseases and their families worldwide through better knowledge, research, care, information, education and awareness. ICORD follows the same values as the United Nations. The focus is to build networks to improve the situation for persons with rare diseases and to increase equal conditions to live a good life. Mr. Olauson has attended the annual conferences of ICORD since 2005 and was also a speaker in 2007 in Brussels. The next conference will be held in Buenos Aires in 2010. For the first time it will be convened in the Southern hemisphere in agreement with its aim of globalization of rare diseases research and orphan products development activities.

Since 2006, Mr. Olauson is also a member of the reference group concerning research on health issues.

Agrenska is present and contributes to many significant forums involved, the latest being in Geneva in July 2009, where Mr. Olauson also met Navid Hanif, former Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, who expressed his appreciation of the work Agrenska is doing.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Agrenska contributed to support for the United Nations goals related to human rights and the Millennium Development Goals. Agrenska also participated in various meetings and projects in this regard.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Agrenska Foundation plans to enhance its direct cooperation with United Nations bodies specialized in the field of global health.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Agrenska Foundation is preparing to launch a more global network in the field of the priorities of the foundation. This included: (a) in 2005, Agrenska participated in the launch of ICORD and authorized the start of a network of centres that worked in the field of family programmes; (b) the Ministry built the centre after a visit to the Agrenska Centre in Gothenburg during 2008 and started a cooperation between the two centres; (c) in October 2007, Queen Silvia of Sweden, together with the First Lady of Estonia, Mrs. Ilves, inaugurated the Eesti Agrenska centre for families who have children with disabilities; Eesti Agrenska is situated in Tammistu, outside Tartu, in Estonia; the centre works in close cooperation with the Agrenska Foundation in Sweden; (d) the University Hospital in Newcastle in Australia started a family programme in line with the Agrenska model; (e) in order to start a better cooperation between the Nordic countries in the field of rare disorders, a project was started in which Mr. Olauson participated as a resource person.

Agrenska has deepened its international engagement during the first four years as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status and wishes to continue this important mission to fulfil its objectives.

3. International Public Telecommunications Academy

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The non-governmental organization International Public Telecommunications Academy is a voluntary non-commercial association of scientists, top managers and first-class experts working in the telecommunications and information technology sector. The work of the Academy is to develop creative relations and cooperation and to advance the integration of scientific and innovative potential of specialists working in the infocommunications field. The major missions of the Academy consist of creating intellectual public infrastructure in the telecommunications sphere, encouraging innovative development of infocommunications and constructing a global information society. The Academy further disseminates current knowledge and innovative technologies in the infocommunications field on the basis of domestic and international experience and promotes professional and international cooperation. It also conducts analytical research on issues of infocommunications development as part of governmental, business-like and public infrastructure.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2002/2005, pursuant to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, the Academy took part in meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in preparing International Public Telecommunications Academy-global information society recommendations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Within the framework of WSIS and ITU programmes, the Academy prepared and published a book entitled *The Digital Gap in Global Information Society*.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In relation to the Economic and Social Council and the Department of Public Information, a great number of forums, conferences and seminars have been held on social and economic aspects of infocommunications development including: (a) Annual International Scientific and Practical Conference on the theme "Information technologies of the global information society" (Kazan, Russian Federation, September 2005-2008); (b) International Conference on the theme "Modern infocommunications market: saturation, competition, development" (Sicily, Italy, September/October 2006); (c) Round table on the theme "Priority guidelines for law improvement in infocommunications and communication fields" (Moscow, March 2007); (d) ninth 2008 Academy International Forum on the theme "Society and infocommunications: development, technologies and social economy" (Moscow, April 2008); (e) in 2006, the Academy was awarded the United Nations Certificate of Recognition for its prominent contribution to the work in the United

Nations Regional Information Network and in the International Organizations Community of civil society.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In relation to the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow, over the period from 2005 to 2008, the Academy participated in holding meetings with Russian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having United Nations status and in a number of international meetings held by the United Nations Information Centre. The Academy also participated in the Annual Conference of Non-governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information. The Academy is a participant in the United Nations Global Treaty in the Russian Federation. As one of the first participants of the Global Treaty, the Academy has conducted active advocacy among Russian companies for joining the Global Treaty. The Academy has actively cooperated with ITU, a United Nations specialized agency, in the field of information and communications technologies. In particular, the Academy is an active advocate for the global programme "Unite the World" aimed at joining up efforts of all interested parties so as by 2015 to unite all those who are not united today.

4. Marie Stopes International

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Marie Stopes International (MSI) is a global, non-profit and non-governmental organization committed to upholding the fundamental right of women and couples to decide freely, and without coercion, the number and spacing of their children, in accordance with the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Founded in 1976, MSI provides high-quality family planning, maternal and child health, comprehensive abortion, and HIV/AIDS services to millions of couples and individuals who live in poverty, including those living in rural areas or urban slums, and to refugee and internally displaced populations. Over the reporting period, MSI expanded its service delivery programme to two more countries, reaching a total of 36 countries in 2008. Its total number of clinics in existing and new countries saw a significant increase from 379 in the beginning of 2005 to 560 in 2008. As a result, nearly 1.7 million more people (totalling 6 million) benefited from MSI's services in 2008 compared to the beginning of 2005. The total income of MSI over the reporting period nearly doubled from £46.6 million to £81.8 million in 2008. This rapid increase was due largely to a significant increase in donor contributions.

Building upon its long-standing experience in promoting and providing reproductive health services in emergency settings, MSI, together with Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health launched the Reproductive Health Access, Information and Services in Emergencies (RAISE) Initiative in June 2006. RAISE works in partnership with key advocacy and service delivery organizations, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to increase and improve access to reproductive health care in emergency situations (www.raiseinitiative.org).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Marie Stopes International participated in major United Nations conferences and other meetings, including, in 2005, the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform of Action, 28 February to 11 March. MSI attended the conference to advocate for the protection and promotion of reproductive health and rights of couples and individuals.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

MSI collaboration with the United Nations specialized agencies consists of: (a) advocacy and exchange of technical expertise, in particular focusing on promoted access to reproductive health in crisis settings. MSI has worked closely

with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including through the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis Settings (IAWG) and the RAISE initiative. Efforts included advocating for the integration of reproductive health in key guidance and policy documents produced by the United Nations system, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) HIV/AIDS guidelines and the global health cluster guidelines. MSI, a founding and steering committee member of IAWG, provided technical input to both the original *Inter-Agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations* and its 2008 review (ongoing). It also participated in the annual IAWG meetings held in Melbourne, Australia (2006), Nairobi (2007) and Cairo (2008); (b) MSI worked with UNFPA and WHO, including through the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, to improve access to and quality of reproductive health supplies; (c) partnership with UNFPA for the implementation of training, service delivery, technical support and advocacy activities in a wide range of countries, mostly in Asia and Latin America. This included the continued support for the MSI office in Brussels, to serve as the secretariat of the Working Group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development (EPWG). EPWG is an informal all-party parliamentary group in the European Parliament which, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, advocated for the support of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the response to HIV/AIDS as the basis for sustainable social and human development and poverty eradication; (d) launch of UNFPA report: as in previous years, the secretariat of EPWG hosted the annual launch of the State of the World Population report in the European Parliament. The launch constituted an important awareness-raising opportunity to ensure that the European Union implemented its commitments to the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals, in particular those related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and gender equality.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Guided by the internationally agreed development goals set out in the Programme of Action of the International Programme on Population Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, MSI, through its delivery of sexual and reproductive health services and advocacy efforts, works strenuously to increase access to quality sexual reproductive health services for all.

During the reporting period, MSI reached 20.6 million clients with family planning and other essential reproductive health services, including maternal and child health care, comprehensive abortion care, adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and prevention of HIV/AIDS. This, for example, included the provision of more than 2 million long-term family planning methods to women wanting to plan their family size and the distribution of 532 million condoms. Through doing so, MSI effectively contributed to most Millennium Development Goals, including:

Goal 1: eradicate poverty: ensuring access to family planning allows women and girls to delay and plan pregnancies and instead acquire skills to improve economic prospects for themselves and their families.

Goal 2: universal education: ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health information and services information for young people reduces the risk of unwanted, early or unintended pregnancies and hence the risk of girls dropping out of school prematurely.

Goal 4 on child health and Goal 5 on maternal health: in addition to ensuring access to maternal and child health services, access to family planning services can reduce the risk of maternal death up to 40 per cent. The health of the mother is an important protective factor in child survival. As such, family planning also helps to reduce the risk of child mortality up to 20 per cent.

Goal 6: HIV/AIDS — MSI contributes to this goal through the distribution of condoms, voluntary counselling and testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Through its advocacy work with European institutions, MSI continues to actively contribute to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those related to reproductive health. Focusing on the European Parliament and the European Commission, in particular, MSI continues to actively advocate for the inclusion of reproductive health in relevant European documents, including council conclusions, commission communications and parliamentary resolutions.

Advocacy efforts also targeted member States to improve action and policy in the area of reproductive health, including MDG5 on maternal health and reproductive health in crisis settings. For example, in 2007, MSI submitted written evidence to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Parliamentary International Development Select Committee hearing on United Kingdom Department for International Development assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees of Myanmar, as well as an inquiry on maternal health. MSI worked with the UK All-Parliamentary Group on Population and Development to conduct an inquiry on maternal morbidity. The reports coming out of these meetings have done much to increase the profile of MDG5 in the United Kingdom. Another area of focus was the inclusion of the current MDG target 5b on universal access to reproductive health, following the 2005 Millennium Review of the MDGs. In close collaboration with other United Kingdom and European non-governmental organizations and networks and government representatives, MSI worked towards the official adoption of MDG target 5b, and has since advocated for its implementation.

5. Virtue Foundation

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Virtue Foundation is a public charitable and non-governmental organization with special consultative status to the United Nations. The Foundation's mission is to increase awareness of prevalent global issues, to inspire people to action, and to render humanitarian assistance through health-care, education, and empowerment initiatives. Comprised primarily of volunteers, Virtue Foundation is guided by the principle that true global change must begin within each of us — one person at a time, one act at a time.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

9 May 2008, the Virtue Foundation, Women Together, and the NGO Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (NGO-DESA) co-sponsored the Third World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals at the United Nations. Panellists and speakers included the Executive Director of the Virtue Foundation, Chief of NGO-DESA and a representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for the South American region, among others. Three hundred participants attended.

2007: in September, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a global forum on youth and information and communications technology in Geneva. The Foundation organized and presented a workshop on the subject of integrating technology into classrooms, underscoring the need to equip children worldwide with the tools necessary to advance in a digital world. The Foundation's Executive Director highlighted its Louisiana Education Initiative and Dwight Student Leadership Project at the United Nations as innovative, educational models; in March, at the Global Summit for a Better Tomorrow: In Celebration of International Women's Day, the Foundation organized and collaborated with NGO-DESA, UNIFEM, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Avon to sponsor a conference focusing on gender equality and highlighting issues related to women's education, health care and economic empowerment. The Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and the Executive Director of UNICEF were among the keynote speakers at the conference, which took place at the United Nations. It received extensive mainstream media coverage and was broadcast on United Nations television and other international media outlets generating approximately 8 million impressions worldwide.

2006: the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a symposium on the theme "Rethinking peace through education and hope: the fifth annual bicoastal symposium commemorating the anniversary of 9/11", which took place in September 2006 at the United Nations. The symposium focused on the theme of

rebuilding the lives of those impacted by devastating tragedies and ongoing conflicts around the world. There were 300 attendees. In May, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a special in-depth interview with Mukhtar Mai, the remarkable rape survivor who has emerged as an international spokesperson on women's rights in Pakistan. CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien conducted the interview at the United Nations that was attended by approximately 200 people.

2005: 9 September, the Foundation collaborated with NGO-DESA to organize and host a symposium on the theme "Keeping the peace in a troubled world: lasting solutions to ethnic and religious conflict". The symposium focused on the issue of national and international conflict, with a special emphasis on the complex relationship between conflict, poverty, and disease. There were more than 300 attendees. An associated event with 250 attendees took place at the University of California, Irvine, on 10 September; in June, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored and organized the premiere screening of the documentary film "Stolen Faces" at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and addressed issues related to acid violence. "Stolen Faces", which was produced by the Foundation and narrated by Liev Schreiber, chronicles the journey a young Cambodian mother and her one-month old daughter, who were victims of an acid attack in Cambodia and the extensive treatment and rehabilitation they received during a medical expedition sponsored by the Foundation. Critical surgical care and rehabilitation were also provided in the United States of America with the sponsorship of Mount Sinai Hospital and the Foundation. Lisa Ling, the host of an award-winning National Geographic Channel series, moderated a panel discussion. Speakers included, among others, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. The event was broadcast on United Nations television. The goal of the documentary is to bring awareness to the problem of acid violence and to encourage Governments and the global community to deter its occurrence. There were 180 participants. In May, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a conference entitled "The People's Republic of China: the emergence of a new world order" at the Asia Society in New York. The conference was attended by 200 participants and included a panel of experts that explored the social and cultural impact of this emerging superpower on establishing the possible beginnings of a new world order.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

2006: in March, the Foundation collaborated with Human Rights Focus (HURIFO), Human Rights Watch, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Witness to present a screening of the documentary of "Between Two Fires: Torture and Displacement in Northern Uganda". The screening was attended by 70 participants and was followed by a panel discussion at the United Nations highlighting torture and displacement in Northern Uganda. In March, the Foundation organized a panel of experts to discuss "Vulnerable youth: safeguarding our children in a globalized world". The discussion was moderated by NBC Dateline's Keith Morrison at the Harvard Club and explored ways to end the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable children worldwide. Two hundred participants attended.

2005-2008: financial contributions: United Nations in 2005, 2008; United Nations Association in 2008.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 5: improve maternal health, and Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability

Integral community health-care systems established.

2008: Burundi: the Foundation deployed a team to provide medical training to professionals and general medical care, including maternal health care, in collaboration with Village Healthworks in Burundi. The Foundation provided financial assistance for the clinic and provided medical supplies.

2007-2008: Chiapas, Mexico: the Foundation sponsored two needs assessment and outreach expeditions with the goal of evaluating the general and maternal health-care needs of the indigenous population and the medical and surgical training needs of medical professionals serving that region. The Foundation compiled an extensive initial summary report of its findings that is being evaluated for a potential future health-care initiative.

2005-2008: Cambodia health-care initiative: the Foundation sponsored three medical expeditions that included treatment and follow-up visits for victims of acid violence as well as training for local health-care professionals. A young mother and infant who were doused with acid were also provided extensive surgical treatment and rehabilitation in the United States of America. A documentary was screened at the high-level segment of the Council in 2006 to bring awareness to the issue of acid violence worldwide. The Foundation hopes to deploy additional teams of physicians to Cambodia and to continue the vital tasks of raising awareness of acid violence and training local physicians in surgical and reconstructive procedures.

April 2006: Belize medical expedition: the Foundation sponsored a medical expedition that consisted of 33 medical students and 17 physicians from Medical Students Making Impacts, Inc. at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The team treated over 2,200 patients and conducted a variety of public health projects.

2006: Pakistan medical expedition: the Foundation sponsored a medical expedition to Meerwala, Pakistan, to provide medical care to women and children. Financial assistance was provided to support the establishment of a sustainable health-care infrastructure. Medical supplies were also provided.

March 2005: discussion on medical expedition to India. In December 2004, the Foundation sponsored a team of physicians to provide medical care to the hundreds of people affected by the tsunami in India. The lead physician provided insight on the medical needs of the population.

Goal 2: achieve universal primary education

2008: Burundi: provided computers and books to children through Healthworks in Burundi.

2005-2008: disaster relief through education pilot project: the Foundation's Louisiana Education Initiative was launched in response to disaster assessment provided by the International Rescue Commission. In collaboration with corporate partners, the Foundation provided over $1 million in laptops and software to children affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This innovative technology-

enabled educational pilot has become a model for primary education in Louisiana and can serve as a replicable model for educating children worldwide.

D. Activities in support of global principles

April 2007: Columbia University Children's Rights Conference on Child Protection: the Foundation cosponsored this conference with Columbia University's Children's Rights Working Group. The panel discussions composed of children's rights experts focused on issues of child labour and trafficking, child abuse and violence against children, and children in emergencies.

27 January 2005: The Quest to Achieve Sustainable Humanitarian Efforts: the Foundation sponsored a panel discussion at Rockefeller University on long-term and pragmatic solutions to the enduring problems of poverty and inadequate health care. Experts included the President of Refugees International, and the Senior Vice-President of the International Rescue Commission, among others.

2007: the Virtue Foundation Dwight Student Leadership Project: the Foundation partnered with The Dwight School in Manhattan to provide high school students with the opportunity to engage in a year-long internship programme to learn about the Millennium Development Goals and to assist with various humanitarian initiatives at the United Nations.

2006: child soldiers initiative: the Foundation forges partnerships with local NGOs in Africa to promote the demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and provide medical assistance to child soldiers infected with HIV. It also organizes lectures at schools to educate students about this issue by screening a documentary produced by the Foundation and narrated by Anne Hathaway that sheds light on the plight of child soldiers and what can be done to help them.

2005-2008: Contributions: the International Rescue Commission, the Refugees International, Witness, and the Human Rights Working Group.

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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Adelphi Research

Special, 2005

I. The aims of the organization

Adelphi Research (Adelphi) was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote high-quality interdisciplinary research and strategic policy analysis, provide public policy consulting and training and facilitate dialogue for institutions and among civil society in Europe and abroad.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Adelphi's staff participated in and/or presented at the following meetings/conferences:

(a) In 2005: Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, New York (January, February and April); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expert meeting on global environmental change and security", Bonn, Germany (March); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings of subsidiary bodies of the parties to the Convention, Bonn (May); High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, New York (May and June); European conference under the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, Berlin (December);

(b) In 2006: CO_2 managers for industry in China — dialogue forum, Cologne, Germany, Dublin and Vienna (May); Energy security in the Latin American region: renewable energy as a viable alternative, Montevideo (September);

(c) In 2007: integrating environment, development and conflict prevention — European and national, Berlin (March); German presidency meeting — informal integrated product policy network, Berlin, (June); Approaches and challenges to vector-borne diseases: impact of climate change on vectors and rodent reservoirs, Berlin (September);

(d) In 2008: "Environment, conflict and peacebuilding — expert advisory group meeting with UNEP, New York (February); United Nations Peacebuilding Commission: working group on lessons learned focusing on environment, conflict and peacebuilding, New York (May); Climate change security threats: options for action in politics, science and economy, Freiburg, Germany (November).

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Adelphi participated in the following: (a) Consultative assistance to UNEP finance institution signatories on clarifying and analysing environmental activities so that the institutions involved could receive better support, Berlin (November 2004-February 2005); (b) In Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia (February 2005-December 2007), a three-year capacity-building and training programme to strengthen the

regulatory capacity of the environment ministries and civil society; (c) Integrated wastewater management concept for the eco-electroplating park in Karaisalkulam, Madurai, India (April 2005-March 2007): Adelphi and the University of Leoben supported local industries, while implementing cleaner production measures and developing a concept for decentralized wastewater treatment; (d) Integrated Southern Africa business advisory, South Africa (April 2005-March 2008): Adelphi and its partners strengthened the capacity of the South African partners in a selected area of renewable energy technologies; (e) In Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey (May 2003-November 2005), Adelphi and its partners implemented a four-year project on efficient wastewater management in the Mediterranean region under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the European Union; (f) In Berlin (July 2002-November 2005), Adelphi provided policy advice to the Ministry of the Environment in the context of the current trade negotiations with the World Trade Organization; (g) In India and Germany (January 2006-December 2008), the European Union-India Sustainable Energy Efficiency Initiative and Adelphi designed marketing materials to implement and enforce the Indian Energy Conservation Act at the local and state levels; (h) In Lebanon (January 2006-January 2009), Adelphi worked in conjunction with the University of Balamand to establish the process of integrated coastal zone management as a tool to manage Lebanon's coast with local stakeholders; (i) In Kathmandu and Berlin (February 2006-February 2008), Adelphi and its partners implemented a river monitoring system for Kathmandu under the Asia Pro-Eco II programme of EuropeAid; (j) In the framework of the European Union-India network for sustainability (February 2004-July 2006), Adelphi aimed to position small- and medium-sized enterprises of the Indian automotive component industry to fulfil requirements of global customers and provide for productivity gains; (k) Under the Indo-European e-Waste Initiative (January 2007-December 2009), Adelphi helped reduce environmental degradation through e-waste recycling; (l) In Africa, the Middle East and the southern Caucasus (September 2007-March 2009), Adelphi developed an instrument to screen environmental conflicts for a study focusing on environmental cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding; (m) In Austria, Italy, Belgium, Hungary and France (January 2008-December 2009), a travelling exhibition was created to increase awareness about the complexity of urban transport research and the ramifications of citizens' transport choices; (n) Since April 2008, Adelphi has been supporting the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency in extending training services and upgrading regional and international networks; (o) Adelphi collaborated with UNEP to develop analytical frameworks for environmental issues that promote peacebuilding in post-conflict countries (December 2007-April 2008); (p) Partnered with the World Tourism Organization to promote energy efficiency in Thailand's tourism sector by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (November 2008-present).

III. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Adelphi contributed to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Europe, the southern Caucasus, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Major actions included the following: (a) Goal 7, target 1: trained 286 civil servants in environment and conflict cooperation issues; strengthened productive and sustainable renewable energy technologies in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Namibia through policy dialogues; (b) Goal 7 target 2: promoted European Union policy dialogue to protect the Black Sea; (c) Goal 7, target 3: achieved a sustainable

water ecosystem through participatory scenario-building in Italy, France, Belgium, Estonia and Latvia; implemented cleaner production measures and developed a concept for decentralized wastewater treatment from metal finishing industries in India; (d) Goal 8, target 4: developed policies that improved the health and living conditions of India's unskilled labour force; (e) Goal 8, target 5: improved e-waste technologies to manage e-waste and recycling in India.

IV. Activities in support of global principles

In December 2008, Adelphi supported the United Nations climate change conferences by participating in "Climate change and security: next steps" in Poznan, Poland. It also began supporting the German Federal Ministry for the Environment in preparation for the 2009 conference in Copenhagen.

2. Global Environmental Action

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Global Environmental Action (GEA) is a non-governmental organization, mainly sponsored by private industrial enterprises in Japan. GEA aims to highlight the state of the global environment and the crisis it is facing by organizing conferences and meetings on all levels, and side events during the related United Nations conferences. It was founded by former Prime Minster Noboru Takeshita and counts among its members Japanese eminent persons, Diet members regardless of factional affiliation and other persons of influence from government, industry and academia.

Between 2005 and 2008 GEA also received funding from the Japan Fund for Global Environment and from the related Government ministries.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

GEA holds international conferences every two years with the support and cooperation of various United Nations and international organizations, and the outcome of these conferences is presented at sessions of the Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A conference on climate change and its effect on sustainable development, was held in Tokyo in October 2005, co-sponsored by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A conference on policy approaches for realizing a sustainable future was held in Tokyo in October 2007, co-sponsored by the United Nations University and UNEP. Side events supporting the main conferences were held in Nairobi in November 2006.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

GEA has joined many other non-governmental organizations at side events of climate change conferences and related United Nations events, and has worked to rouse international public opinion concerning such matters as the realization of the low-carbon society. The current GEA Director-General was the Chairman of the third session of the Conference of the Parties in Kyoto in 1997, where he contributed greatly towards the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. He made a statement from the outcome of the 2005 GEA international conference at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Tokyo in October 2005 and also at the first meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Montreal, Canada (in November and December 2005). In 2007, Rajendra K. Pachauri of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was the guest speaker at the GEA international conference and the outcome of the conference was presented by the

Panel at the thirteenth Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia. In 2006, together with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, GEA developed "Virtual Globe" (a test project using the Internet to collect donations and funds from around the world), to support non-governmental organizations from developing countries in Asia involved in environmental problems. As a result of this project, GEA was able to support eight environmental organizations in Asia.

GEA has wielded enormous influence on the Government of Japan, which as a developed country has overcome the horrific experience of Minamata disease to achieve sustainable development system and has contributed significant amounts of environmental official development assistance.

3. International Mediterranean Women's Forum

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The main purpose of the International Mediterranean Women's Forum (IMWF) is to further cooperation and the exchange of experiences between women of the Mediterranean in order to effectively improve the conditions of women throughout the Mediterranean and at a global level. Main courses of action of IMWF are communication activities, training, education, promotion of women entrepreneurs and scientists and organization of international meetings and artistic, social and cultural events.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The leaders of IMWF have participated each year in the work of the Economic and Social Council. At all meetings, representatives of IMWF presented oral statements and distributed written material outlining the programmes undertaken and the results were obtained. Representatives attended the following meetings: (a) forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2005, New York; (b) international conference of non-governmental organizations that maintain official relations with UNESCO, December 2005, Paris; (c) fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2007, New York; (d) fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February and March 2008, New York; (e) sixty-first annual conference of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, September 2008, Paris.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. Activities undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO

These included (a) Arab network for women in science and technology, February 2005, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain; (b) The rights and positions of women: reality or utopia, November 2005; (c) Third festival of women creators of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea", August and September 2006, Thessaloniki, Greece; (d) Equal opportunities for all in Italy and the Euro-Mediterranean area, June 2007, Turin, Italy; (e) International conference on women's leadership for sustainable development, November 2007, Jerusalem and Haifa, Israel; (f) Intercultural dialogue as a peacemaking tool: the viewpoint of the women of Palestine, Israel and Italy, December 2008, Turin, Italy.

2. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1, target 2, IMWF sponsored the training of women trainers with a view to developing new professions and work opportunities as a way to combat poverty, June 2008, Tangiers, Morocco.

All the activities promoted by IMWF aim to achieve Goal 3, target 1. Among other means, the objective was achieved through the organization of international meetings, networks of local and national associations and documentation centres and communications both printed and online. Activities include (a) production of a monthly newsletter by representatives from the Club of Marseilles, France; (b) publication of the UNESCO science report on science, technology and gender, 2005, a collaboration between the International Centre Ipazia and UNESCO; and (c) the Alfieri project on best practice for improving equal opportunities for all in the Mediterranean area, 2007 and 2008, promoted by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Italy.

The conference on women's leadership for Sustainable Development (see sect. I above) promoted Goal 2, target 1.

3. Activities in support of global principles

Each year IMWF celebrates International Women's Day with national and international events. Other activities include those related to (a) UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development: "60 Years of UNESCO" (November 2005), Turin; training in law and international organizations (November 2007), Turin; "Planet Earth: How can we save it?" (November 2008), Turin; (b) Human Rights Day: International dialogue as a peacemaking tool: the viewpoint of the women of Israel, Italy and Palestine (December 2008), Turin; (c) International Year of Physics: research programme on women and physics (academic year 2005/06), Centro Ipazia Women and Science; (d) Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: "How can we redistribute energy?" (November 2006), Turin; National Week of Education about Sustainable Energy (November 2006), Turin; research and survey on sustainable energy (academic year 2006/07), Italy; training programme on law and international organizations (academic year 2007/08), Mediterranean basin; (e) International Year of Planet Earth: Research-action programme (academic year 2008/09), Mediterranean basin.

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4. Open Society Institute

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Open Society Institute (OSI) is a private operating and grants-making foundation that promotes the development of open societies worldwide by supporting an array of initiatives in different geographic regions. Established in 1993 by financier and philanthropist George Soros, OSI collaborates with an informal network of foundations and organizations — the Soros Foundations Network — dedicated to building vibrant democracies in more than 60 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. OSI exerts its influence in such areas as human rights, youth initiatives, anti-discrimination, legal reform, education and public health. Locally, OSI backs a range of projects to support the rule of law and independent media. From its headquarters in New York City, OSI supports its programme goals through the application of grants and the pursuit of research and advocacy. The organization's focus on responsible development and the protection of marginalized populations often brings its activities into parallel with those of the United Nations, and OSI values its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as an effective platform from which to promote the reforms and restorations integral to more open societies — and a more tolerant world.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In April 2006, the International Palliative Care Initiative (IPCI) of OCI participated in the inaugural meeting of partner organizations for cancer control at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

In May 2006, at the request of WHO, IPCI co-hosted a meeting with the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care in Salzburg in May 2006 to draft guidelines for the essential medicines list for palliative care.

In 2006-2008, IPCI supported four regional pain and palliative care meetings focusing on opinion policy in Uganda, Ghana, the Philippines and Moldova.

In 2008, IPCI met with representatives of WHO to discuss opioid availability for patients with pain worldwide. IPCI works extensively with several WHO collaborating centres and has participated in drafting materials disseminated by WHO.

In November 2008, the Law and Health Initiative (LAHI) of OSI participated in individual meetings with members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on issues related to drug rehabilitation and the right to health. LAHI spearheaded the production of a health and human rights resource guide for advocates and practitioners. LAHI is also supporting the development of a series of practical manuals for lawyers interested in taking human rights in patient care cases.

In 2006, the Economic and Social Council accreditation of OSI enabled a European Roma Rights Centre representative to testify before the Committee on the

Elimination of Discrimination against Women on health-care abuses against the Roma population.

From 2005 to 2008, the International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) participated as a non-governmental representative at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meetings that take place annually in Vienna, and hosted parallel briefings at each meeting on subjects ranging from drug treatment to harm reduction for women to the effects of illicit drug policy on HIV prevention and treatment.

In April 2008, IHRD collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on an analysis of drug treatment and human rights protections, a subject on which IHRD has jointly sponsored panels with UNODC at international conferences, including the International Harm Reduction Conference in Bangkok in April 2008.

In June 2008, IHRD played an active role in the General Assembly high-level meetings on HIV/AIDS convened in New York to gauge progress since the 2001 declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS. IHRD works regularly with WHO Europe to highlight deaths related to overdose and the need for services, and has offered expert commentary on WHO guidelines on issues related to tuberculosis and harm reduction. In August 2008, at the international AIDS conference in Mexico City, IHRD participated with WHO and the head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in an expert briefing for the press on tuberculosis.

IHRD has ongoing collaborations with headquarters and regional offices of UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the special rapporteurs on torture and health on topics of health and human rights of drug users.

In May and June 2006, the OSI Public Health Watch (PHW) attended the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS and supported several civil society organizations' participation in panel discussions.

In October 2007, PHW participated in the 2007 WHO European ministerial forum on tuberculosis in Berlin and convened the civil society consultation "Fighting tuberculosis in the European region" to prepare a statement for the forum.

In June 2007 and April 2008, PHW participated in the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as the non-governmental organization observer, organizing a side event to launch the report on civil society perspectives on HIV/AIDS policy in 2007 and participating in the HIV/TB thematic session in 2008.

In April 2008, PHW participated in the WHO meeting on tuberculosis in Geneva. In June 2008, PHW attended the HIV/TB Global Leaders Forum and the high-level meeting on AIDS in New York. At the 39th Union World Conference on Lung Health, PHW co-sponsored a satellite session on tuberculosis and human rights with WHO.

From 2005 through 2007, the OSI International Women's Programme (IWP) supported the annual participation of non-governmental representatives from Africa, Asia and the Middle East in the Commission on the Status of Women and select other advocacy meetings focusing on protecting and promoting the rights of women.

In 2008, IWP redirected its focus to increase its collaboration with the United Nations, including, but not limited to, involvement in the following events and activities.

In March 2008, IWP supported and facilitated the participation of non-governmental organization grantees in the annual CSW and coordination of parallel events and meetings. In addition, IWP representatives held a series of meetings with relevant departments of the Secretariat in order to follow up on possible areas of support for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

From April to July 2008, IWP representatives continued to meet regularly with officials of the United Nations to continue its work on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other priority countries. In August 2008, IWP spearheaded the creation of an informal non-governmental organization working group to focus on the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008). This group works in partnership with UNIFEM and United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and coordinates with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on resolution 1820 (2008).

In September 2008, IWP was accepted as a member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security which works directly with the United Nations for the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

In addition to these activities, OSI has provided support to Karama, a movement to end violence against women across the Middle East and North Africa. OSI sponsored Karama's six delegates at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and co-sponsored a panel discussion at the United Nations Church Centre in New York on combating violence against women in the Middle East and North Africa. Also in 2007, Karama revived the Middle East Caucus for non-governmental organization delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2008, OSI co-sponsored Karama delegates attending the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The delegation led the re-named Western Asia Caucus and held a session on dignity and the politics of financing for women's rights.

OSI has facilitated panel discussions on the situation of refugees from Myanmar in Thailand (March 2007); the plight of Buddhist monks (September 2008); and the situation of the Rohingya population (March 2009). OSI regularly participates in consultative meetings with relevant United Nations officials.

5. Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights[1] (RFK Center), established in 1968, is dedicated to advancing human rights by engaging in long-term partnerships with its laureates: activists who have won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. RFK Center staff work with laureates to initiate and support sustainable social justice movements using innovative tools including litigation; technical initiatives; advocating with Governments, the United Nations and other international entities and non-governmental organizations; and launching consumer awareness campaigns aimed at fostering corporate responsibility.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In addition to the activities listed below, the Center regularly advocates with Security Council members and United Nations Members on various issues.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The following meetings were held with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): (a) In October 2005, RFK Center staff helped facilitate the visit of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to Immokalee, Florida, United States of America, to meet with members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a laureate, and witness the extremely poor conditions of the migrant farm workers in United States agriculture fields; (b) In November 2005, Laureate Stephen Bradberry met with the Independent Expert in New Orleans; (c) In 2007, RFK Center staff hosted a briefing for the Independent Expert on minority issues before her official visit to the Dominican Republic; (d) In June 2008, RFK Center staff participated in the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean preparatory to the Durban Review Conference and advocated for greater protection of the rights of migrants and their descendents; (e) At the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Panel on Food Security held in New York in August 2008, RFK Center staff participated in a consultation organized by UNICEF and OHCHR on human rights and rising food prices; (f) In November 2008, RFK Center staff and 2008 RFK Laureate Aminatou Haidar met with the Independent Expert on minority issues to discuss human rights issues facing the Saharawi population under Moroccan occupation; (g) In December 2008 in Geneva, RFK Center staff presented recommendations to the forum on minority issues and the right to education on the right to education of Afro-descendants and indigenous communities in the Americas and contributed to

[1] Formerly Robert F. Kennedy Memorial.

the forum recommendation document that the Independent Expert presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In March 2005, the RFK Center submitted a written statement on behalf of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on slavery in the agricultural industry, violations of the economic and social rights of farm workers in the United States, and corporate and governmental accountability.

In April 2005, RFK Center staff drafted and submitted to relevant United Nations departments and offices a white paper laying out a multifaceted peacebuilding mission to Haiti and met with officials to explore the establishment of a peacebuilding trust fund as a mechanism for implementing a human rights-based, community-centred approach to development utilizing existing resources on the ground in Haiti, particularly MINUSTAH troops and United Nations agencies.

In May 2005, RFK Center staff and the Reverend Andrew Karnley, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Monrovia, met with United Nations officials to discuss the humanitarian and human rights situation in Liberia; a more integrated approach to peacekeeping; strengthening the UNMIL mandate; the possibility of a peacebuilding trust fund; and the incorporation of language from the international human rights legal framework when reporting on the human rights situation in Liberia.

In May 2005, RFK Center staff met in New York with several Member States to discuss the integration of economic and social rights into the peacebuilding mission in Haiti.

In June and July 2005, RFK Center staff met in New York with United Nations officials to discuss the spectrum of economic and social human rights violations in Haiti as well as the possible implementation of a peacebuilding trust fund.

In January 2006 in Gaza City, RFK Center staff met with senior officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and WHO to discuss the plight of Palestinian refugees.

In March 2006 in Monrovia, RFK Center staff met with the Chief of the Human Rights and Protection Section of UNMIL to discuss the human rights situation in Liberia, RFK Center work with local partners and the need to maintain and develop baseline indicators for socio-economic human rights abuses in post-conflict Liberia.

In March 2006 in Monrovia, RFK Center staff met with a senior UNMIL rule of law expert to discuss the current status of the local courts, judiciary and the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee in Liberia. In July 2006, Center staff sent a letter to the human rights director of UNMIL strongly urging the UNMIL human rights and protection section to initiate the collection of data determining whether or not progress had been made in the human rights situation in Liberia since the conflict ended in 2003. Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, State parties are obligated to collect such data. In August 2006 and August 2008 in N'Djamena, Center staff and Laureate Delphine Djiraibe met with

United Nations staff to discuss Ms. Djiraibe's work with the Public Interest Law Center, peace and reconciliation issues and the ongoing humanitarian situation. They also met in August 2006 with a WHO representative to discuss WHO programmes targeting reproductive health and health education, as well as the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

In June 2007, Center staff met in Haiti with MINUSTAH officers to discuss projects in Port de Paix.

In the Guatemala elections of September 2007, an RFK Center-led election monitoring delegation joined the OHCHR team to visit polling centres on election day.

In September and December 2007 and March and April 2008, RFK Center staff met in Washington, D.C., with the Senior Protection Officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss and provide updates on ongoing human rights issues, including statelessness, facing Dominican citizens of Haitian descent.

In April 2008, Laureate Sonia Pierre met with the UNHCR Regional Representative to discuss policies in the Dominican Republic that lead to the institutionalized disenfranchisement of Dominicans of Haitian descent.

In May 2008, Center staff met with the UNICEF Country Director in Santo Domingo to discuss the issue of statelessness of Dominicans of Haitian descent.

In July 2008, RFK Center staff briefed the UNHCR Director for the Americas in Washington, D.C., on human rights abuses targeting Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic and met with the UNHCR Senior Protection Officer to discuss and provide updates on ongoing human rights issues, including statelessness, facing Dominican citizens of Haitian descent.

In August 2008 in N'Djamena, RFK Center staff and Laureate Delphine Djiraibe met with the UNDP Resident Representative to discuss Ms. Djiraibe's work with the Public Interest Law Center, peace and reconciliation issues, the ongoing humanitarian situation and the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). In September 2008, Center staff met with the Resident Representative to discuss possible collaboration with the Public Interest Law Center and the impact of the oil spill from the Chad-Cameroon oil and pipeline project.

In October 2008, Center staff delivered a statement drafted by 2008 Laureate Aminatou Haidar of Western Sahara to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. The statement emphasized the brutality of the Moroccan occupying force and requested that the defence of human rights be added to the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

III. Activities in line with global principles and the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1, the RFK Center submitted an overview on the impact of agribusiness on small family farmers in Brazil in June 2009 to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, who held a closed consultation on the role of agribusiness in the right to food.

In line with Goal 2, the Center disseminated a report on the right to education of Afro-descendants and indigenous communities in the Americas.

In line with Goal 6, in June 2008 the Center published an 87-page report on the denial of the right to water in Haiti.

6. Women's Health in Women's Hands

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The mandate of the Women's Health in Women's Hands (WHIWH) community health centre is to provide primary health care to black women and women of colour from the Caribbean, African, Latin American and South Asian communities in Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding municipalities. We are committed to working from an inclusive feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppression and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to health care for our mandated priority populations.

For more than 20 years WHIWH has been providing health-care services to black women and women of colour. As an ongoing advocate for inclusive and responsive strategies in this area, WHIWH continues to involve itself with a number of collaborative research initiatives as a way to effectively address the particular needs of our priority populations. Using a participatory approach, WHIWH analyses and identifies barriers in health-care delivery and designs resources to improve quality and access. We maintain international links with groups and organizations in the home countries of the clients we serve. We advocate for the women from our priority groups at the local, national and international level.

In 2007 we made minor amendments to our by-laws for the purpose of clarifying the language. This by-law change has not substantively impacted the operations of the organization.

In the years 2005-2008 we received enhancements to our sources of funding which increased our funding from Can$ 2,579,195 in 2005 to Can$ 3,407,527 in 2008.

The increased funding has enabled us to strengthen our research initiatives and to address the impact of chronic disease, including HIV/AIDS and diabetes, on our populations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In February and March 2005, WHIWH attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and presented a side event which explored the inequalities among women and their impact on the physical and mental health of black women and women of colour from the South living in the North and proposed strategies and initiatives to ensure effective health-care and health promotion programmes. WHIWH also attended a variety of workshops organized by non-governmental organizations on topics of interest and a meeting of the Canadian non-governmental organization.

At the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in February and March 2006, WHIWH participated in civil society and non-governmental organization discussions, shared information about its model of care and raised issues of the gender dimensions of immigration based on Canadian experience with black women and women of colour.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

At the follow-up General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in May and June 2006, WHIWH attended numerous activities organized by civil society, particularly those that highlighted issues of women and mobile or immigrant populations. WHIWH also participated in the daily civil society updates and other planning meetings to ensure a voice on issues facing black communities and communities of colour, particularly women, living in Western developed countries.

IV. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In line with Goal 1 and in order to overcome the impact of hunger on our priority populations, WHIWH partners with the Daily Bread food bank to provide food for clients, with enhanced rations for our prenatal clients (2,000 visits per annum). WHIWH also participates in various networks whose aim is to reduce poverty, hunger and homelessness.

In line with Goal 2, WHIWH has advocated at local and provincial levels to ensure that all children in Canada are enrolled in primary education in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child regardless of the immigration or refugee status of their parents.

In line with Goal 3, WHIWH provides opportunities for women through our student placement programme (25 students per annum) and our skills development and health promotion programme for HIV-positive women (200 women) to increase their skills and future opportunities. WHIWH also participates in various campaigns to encourage women to vote.

In line with Goals 4 and 5, WHIWH provides complete health care including specialist consultations, diagnostics and pre- and post-natal classes to our clients who, due to their immigration status, do not qualify for health-care coverage. WHIWH has also been active in campaigns to ensure that Canadian children born to parents with immigration status are recognized as Canadian citizens and enrolled in Government health insurance plans.

In line with Goal 6, WHIWH has been instrumental in the formation of the African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS, which was launched at the 2006 international AIDS conference to highlight the issues affecting African and black migrant populations in their countries of destination and to support a coordinated global response which is informed by best services.

At the AIDS conference held in Mexico in 2008, there was little in terms of global village activities or presentations in the scientific programme to highlight issues of African/black migrant populations living in Western developed countries. Plans are already under way to support the implementation of such activities at the Vienna 2010 AIDS conference.

WHIWH also sits on various committees, makes presentations at local, national and international forums and carries out research to promote the achievement of Goal 6.

In response to increasing rates of HIV infection in black women and the effects of the epidemic on their lives, WHIWH developed an HIV/AIDS initiative which

provides a model for multifaceted HIV interventions. A documentary film, "The woman I have become", which highlights the components of the model, has been widely distributed. WHIWH has also begun working on a concerted effort to combat the impact of diabetes, a chronic disease that affects more than 800,000 people in Ontario, Canada, with a higher prevalence rate for women from our populations. WHIWH was recognized for its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by an invitation to speak at the United Nations Civil Society Development Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

V. Activities in support of global principles

World AIDS Day is observed each December with presentations for service providers, clients and community members. At the 2007 commemoration WHIWH hosted a pre-release screening of its documentary on African and Caribbean women living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. At the 2008 commemoration WHIWH formally launched and distributed the documentary (available in English, Arabic, French, Swahili and Somali) and its accompanying discussion guide. These products have subsequently been widely distributed.